

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should the CNMI
grant improved
immigration status
to long-term alien
workers?

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INSIDE



Papal Prayers

Pope Benedict XVI prayed with tearful victims of clergy sex abuse in a chapel Thursday.

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Suicide Blast

A suicide bomber struck the funeral of two Sunni tribesmen who joined forces against al-Qaida in Iraq.

WORLD...Page 11



Astonishing Building

Belgium on Thursday celebrated the 50th anniversary of the "most astonishing building in the world."

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'Legislature exerts undue influence on zoning' PAGE 2
NMI response team completes hazmat training. PAGE 5

Salary cut mulled for ranking govt officials

Panel eyed to study 10 percent salary cut

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Legislation has been proposed to create a commission that will study a 10-percent pay cut for all elected government officials.

The proposed salary reduction will affect the governor, lieutenant governor, senators, representatives, judges, justices, and mayors, whose salaries are all constitutionally protected.

Under the CNMI Constitution, an advisory commission must be established before the salary of any elected official is changed.

See SALARY on Page 4

IN LIGHT OF \$17.7M MERGER WITH DELTA

Business as usual for NWA

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Northwest Airlines Corp.'s \$17.7-billion mega merger with Delta Air Lines Inc. will not have an immediate impact in the company's operations in the region.

This was according to the carrier's Guam and Saipan general manager Richard A. Parsons in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

See BUSINESS on Page 4



SCIENCE FAIR

Marianas Baptist Academy 10th grade student Yong Hwa Choi demonstrates her work called "Dual Balance" during the school's 3rd Annual Science Fair exhibit yesterday. The fair, with the theme "Focusing on Science through Improvisation of Laboratory Apparatus," aims to offer hands-on learning experiences on laboratory apparatus and to teach students how to improvise. MBA science teacher and science fair coordinator Lorna B. Liban initiated the event, which was participated by 76 entries from 7th to 12th grade MBA students. The judges were Rep. Tina Sablan, MCS science teacher Luz Baldazo, CCA science teacher Sarah Rockhey and PSS Island-wide science fair coordinator Teresita A. Reyes.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Book blames rivets for Titanic tragedy

By CARLEY PETESCH
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The tragic sinking of the Titanic nearly a century ago can be blamed on low grade rivets that the ship's builders used on some parts of the ill-fated liner, two experts on metals conclude in a new book.

See BOOK on Page 4

This April or May 1911 photo provided by the Library of Congress, shows the hull of the S.S. Titanic under construction in dry dock.



AP

BOE stands firm vs PSS furloughs

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

The Board of Education says it is firm in its commitment to preserve personnel funds and will not approve a furlough of personnel or reprogram personnel funds to cover unbudgeted utility expenses.

The BOE had previously approved

See BOE on Page 4

Local



2ND AWAODORI FESTIVAL

Visiting members of the Tensuiren, Awa Odori Traditional Dance Group from Ko-Enji, Tokyo, Japan, and children from the Koblerville Youth Center pose for a souvenir picture after the successful 2nd Awa Odori Festival celebration at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan Thursday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

'Legislature exerts undue influence on zoning'

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A lawmaker has reiterated her concern about legislative requests for amendments to the Saipan zoning plan.

Rep. Tina Sablan says that by adopting such resolutions, the House of the Representatives is exerting undue influence on the Saipan Zoning Board.

Sablan made the statement, as the House approved this week a resolution asking the Zoning Board to change the zoning classification of a Sadog Tasi building to allow a microbrewery to open in the area.

It was the second such resolution adopted by the House.



Sablan

The first involved a property in Kagman, which is being eyed as location for a future moderate-sized grocery store.

According to Sablan, there is already a process in place for appeals to the board to consider amendments to the zoning plan. The

board is currently entertaining such requests.

"We should respect the laws that we have created and the processes that are in place, and allow agencies to do their jobs," said Sablan, who voted against the resolution.

Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz, author of the resolution, said an investor is interested in reopening the microbrewery located

next to Coffee Care restaurant in Sadog Tasi.

The first and only microbrewery on Saipan opened in 1994 and shut down its operation a year later.

Currently, the commercial building is classified as "village

commercial." Such zoning restricts manufacturing.

The resolution, which seeks to have the property reclassified as "mixed commercial," states that the proposed microbrewery operation is "small scale and environmentally friendly."

MVA promotes the CNMI in China

After the successful World Travel Fair in Shanghai on March 27-30, the Marianas Visitors Authority continued its China market promotions in Guangzhou, the biggest city in southern China and the base for the Guangzhou-Saipan charter flight. Leng Bai of the Marianas Visitors Authority attended the Guangzhou International Travel Fair, together with Tinian Dynasty Holidays.

The GITF is an annual international tourist exhibition that has been successfully held for 15 sessions. It has been recognized as one of the most important annual international travel fairs in the Asia-Pacific region; an important tie that links the domestic and overseas tourism circles, and a comparatively important platform for exchange, cooperation, exhibition and marketing between the domestic and overseas tourism circle.

GITF 2008 attracted some 392 exhibitors from over 36 countries and regions all over the world, presenting a rich array of travel agencies, hotel and holiday camp, travel education and training, tourist attractions, tourism media, airlines and variety of tourism products domestic and overseas.

Both MVA and TDH have attended the GITF regularly since 2002. At this year's event MVA occupied a booth with a theme decoration highlighting the relaxing and paradise-like setting visitors may experience on Saipan and Tinian.

Three scheduled media interviews were coordinated for Leng Bai to deliver a welcoming message to Chinese travelers, highlighting the islands' treasures. Interviews included TV Southern Satellite, Tourism Guangdong website and *Style Weekly Magazine*. The interviews were reported and broadcasted during and after the exhibition.

As a supplement to the GITF, MVA hosted a travel agent luncheon party to enhance the Guangzhou promotion trip. Five key travel agents and 12 representatives attended the event. All expressed their willingness to develop the CNMI tourist destination with extra effort, with the involvement and support of both MVA and TDH. Leng Bai expressed appreciation and opened the table for any suggestions from key agents, then introduced TDH as one of its key partners for the China market.

The general manager of Tinian Dynasty Holidays, Jacky Cheung, mentioned in his speech that "as a partner of MVA, TDH...will accelerate the market development of tourism for the CNMI, and will also provide constant and quality tourist service for the China traveler."

"We look forward to continued visitors from the China market," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Attending trade shows throughout the region with our industry partners allows us to showcase the beauty of our islands." (MVA)



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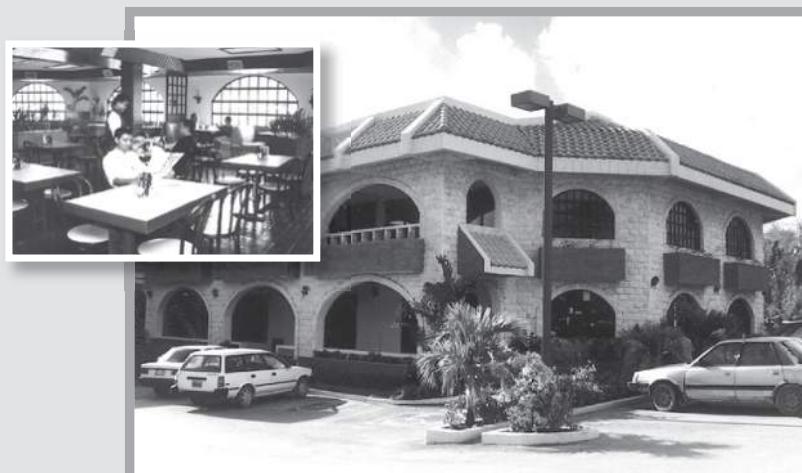
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SHEFA to hold review of alleged mismanagement

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program will conduct its own review of alleged mismanagement at the scholarship agency.

Felicidad T. Ogumoro, chairwoman of the SHEFA board of directors, said the in-house review will be the agency's response to the allegations of mismanagement the Office of the Public Auditor outlined in its recent review.

She said SHEFA will gather documents and information to address any discrepancies in the OPA review, and those discrepancies will be detailed when SHEFA submits its response to OPA.

According to OPA, SHEFA has misused public funds through questionable hiring and improper payments to board members.

One finding is that agency hired contractors without following procurement regulations. Both contractors are CNMI government retirees and may have been "double dipping," or receiving both salary and pension benefits. The two also seem to be doing the

Man gets six years in prison for kidnapping, sexual abuse

The Superior Court has imposed a six-year prison term on a carpenter accused of beating up his common-law wife and pouring gas on a minor girl.

Associate Judge David Wiseman sentenced Arnel Cunanan Gutierrez to six years in prison for one count of kidnapping and one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Wiseman said that after serving the prison term, the 41-year-old Gutierrez will be placed on three years of probation.

The judge required the defendant to perform 80 hours of community work service, to write a letter of apology to the victims, and undergo counseling evaluation.

Gutierrez is also required to register as a sex offender.

The first amended information charged Gutierrez with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, one count of assault and battery, two counts of kidnapping, and one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, and one count of disturbing the peace.

The defendant and his lawyer, assistant public defender Malik Edwards, entered a plea agreement with the government, represented by assistant attorney general Melissa Simms.

Gutierrez pleaded guilty to one count of kidnapping and one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree. The

same job, OPA said.

OPA also found inadequate documentation to support the payments made to some SHEFA board members. Some board members were compensated for work other than board meetings, and the board did not comply with the Boards and Commissions Reform Act of 2006.

Ogumoro said the agency was dismayed that OPA conducted a review of the program without interviewing any SHEFA board member or the Saipan mayor.

"Every entity and or person, whether they are private or public, will make mistakes. However, organizations and or people must be given an opportunity to respond in order to ensure there are no justifications for allegations prior to being accused for misconduct," she said in a letter to Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan.

OPA has urged the Saipan and Northern Legislative Delegation to work with House and Senate members on how SHEFA and the CNMI Scholarship Office could be merged, without getting rid of the separate financial aid program for Saipan students.

Saipan Local Law 13-21,

which established SHEFA, initially provided a continuous yearly appropriation of \$1.2 million from Saipan poker license fees. This funding was allotted in fiscal years 2004 and 2005.

In October 2004, an additional \$150,000 was appropriated for the program's operational costs. The money was intended to cover operational expenses starting FY2004 until fully used.

In the same month, an additional \$1.2 million was appropriated for the "Saipan local scholarship account."

In October 2005, a Saipan local law increased the continuous yearly appropriation for the scholarship fund from \$1.2 million to \$3 million, and provided a non-lapsing yearly appropriation of \$200,000 for SHEFA's operational costs.

From FY2004 to FY2006, SHEFA received total allotments of \$5.83 million, of which \$5.57 million went to financial assistance and over \$250,000 went to operations (mostly personnel).

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Attorney for Petitioners

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF) FCD-CN
THE PETITION FOR) Civil
THE CHANGE OF) Action
NAME OF:) No. 08-0162

LEILA CARLINNE) NOTICE
HOFSCHEIDER) OF
SANTOS;) HEARING
(DOB: 1/15/2004))

Minor.)

BY:)

JOHN REYES SANTOS)
and CORINNE)
HOFSCHEIDER)
SANTOS;)

Petitioners.)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on May 12, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 15th day of April, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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- At least two years' experience writing for a newspaper or magazine;
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- At least two years' experience covering sports for a newspaper or magazine;
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- At least three years' experience in the publishing business or related field;
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- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
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- At least high school graduate;
- Typing speed of at least 40 words per minute
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- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, and a team player.

If you think you have what it takes to be part of this dynamic team, submit your most recent résumé and portfolio to the **Saipan Tribune**, located on the second floor of the CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan. Or e-mail it to editor@saipantribune.com. On-island hires preferred.

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Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Utility bills skyrocket in Cook Islands

RAROTONGA, Cook Islands (Cook Islands News/PIR) - Some Aitutaki residents are reeling at the latest power increases - tariffs have jumped by up to

18.5 percent or 12 cents per unit as of 1 April.

Aitutaki Power Supply manager Long Tuiravakai says some very angry

people have complained to him.

"As I have explained to them, this is a global issue and if APS does not recover fuel increment costs, in four

months time APS cannot afford to pay its fuel bill from New Zealand. A condition of payment for fuel is four days before the ship arrives in Aitutaki."

One Aitutaki resident said they were mostly concerned that the increase was so much all at once.

The domestic power tariff has risen from 53 cents to 65 cents per unit while the commercial rate has gone up 8 cents to 72 cents for the first 1,000 units of electricity used and a small decrease has been made to the charge thereafter to 56 cents a unit.

BOOK

From Page 1

The company, Harland and Wolff of Belfast, Northern Ireland, needed to build the ship quickly and at reasonable cost, which may have compromised quality, said co-author Timothy Foecke. That the shipyard was building two other vessels at the same time added to the difficulty of getting the millions of rivets needed, he added.

"Under the pressure to get these ships up, they ramped up the riveters, found materials from additional suppliers, and some was not of quality," said Foecke, a metallurgist at the U.S. government's National Institute of Standards and Technology who has been studying the Titanic for a decade.

More than 1,500 people died when the Titanic, advertised as an "unsinkable" luxury liner, struck an iceberg on its maiden voyage in 1912 and went down in the North Atlantic less than three hours later.

"The company knowingly purchased weaker rivets, but I think they did it not knowing they would be purchasing something substandard enough that when they hit an iceberg their ship would sink," said co-author Jennifer Hooper McCarty, who started researching the Titanic's rivets while working on her Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University in 1999.

The company disputes the idea that inferior rivets were at fault. The theory has been around for years, but McCarty and Foecke's book, "What Really Sank the Titanic," published last month, outlines their extensive research into the Harland and Wolff archives and surviving rivets from the Titanic.

McCarty spent two years in Britain studying the company's archives and

works on the training and working conditions of shipyard workers. She and Foecke also studied engineering textbooks from the 1890s and early 1900s to learn more about shipbuilding practices and materials.

"I had the opportunity to study the metallurgy of several rivets," McCarty said. "It was a process of taking thousands of images of the inside of these rivets, finding out what the structure was like, doing chemical testing and computer modeling.

"Seeing the kind of levels we saw in different areas, in different parts of the ship led us to believe they would have ordered from different people," she said, adding this may have led to the weaker rivets.

The two metallurgists tested 48 rivets from the ship and found that slag concentrations were at 9 percent, when they should have been 2 to 3 percent. The slag is a byproduct of the smelting process.

"You need the slag but you need just a little to take up the load that's applied so the iron doesn't stretch," Foecke said. "The iron becomes weak the more slag there is because the brittleness of the slag takes over and it breaks easily."

Foecke said the main question was not whether the Titanic would sink after hitting the iceberg, but how fast the ship went down.

He believes the answer is provided by the weak rivets. His analysis showed the builders used stronger steel rivets where they expected the greatest stress and weaker iron rivets for the stern and the bow, where they thought there would be less pressure, he said. But it was the ship's bow that struck the iceberg.

"Typically you want a four bar for rivets," Foecke said, using the measure-

ment for the strongest rivets. "Some of the orders were for three bar."

Harland and Wolff spokesman Joris Minne disputed the findings. "We always say there was nothing wrong with the Titanic when it left here," he said.

When the iceberg hit the Titanic, it scraped alongside the ship. Foecke said this affected a number of seams in the bow and the weak rivets let go, putting more pressure on the strong rivets.

"Six compartments flooded. If the rivets were on average better quality, five compartments may have flooded and the ship would have stayed afloat longer and more people would have been saved," Foecke said. "If four compartments flooded, the ship may have limped to Halifax."

The company does not have an archivist, but it refers scientific questions on the Titanic to retired Harland and Wolff naval engineer David Livingstone, who also has researched the ship's sinking.

He said he largely agrees with the authors' findings on the metallic composition of the rivets, but added their conclusions that the rivets were to blame for the sinking are "misleading and incorrect" because they do not consider the ship's overall design and the historical context.

"You can't just look at the material and say it was substandard," Livingstone said. "Of course material from 100 years ago would be inferior to material today."

He said he has found no document to support the argument that Harland and Wolff knowingly used substandard material. He pointed out that the Olympic, a ship the company built at the same time using the same materials, had a long life with no troubles. The third vessel turned out in the early 1900s was attacked and sunk in World War I.

Livingstone said he is not sure why iron rivets were used in the bow and the stern but believes it may have been because a crane-mounted hydraulic rivet machine could not reach those points. He said the iron rivets were wider to compensate for the difference in strength.

Contrary to Foecke's theory, Livingstone said, the Titanic did not go down fast compared to other ships that have sunk.

He said the Titanic did not capsize—as do most sinking ships—but maintained an even keel until the last moment, going down after about 2 1/2 hours when the weight of the water it

took on became too much.

William Garzke, chairman of the forensics panel of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers based in New Jersey, said wrought iron was commonly used at that time, but steel was the newer, stronger choice.

Garzke, who also has studied the Titanic sinking, said the two scientists made a good point about the variability of the rivets, but "the problem is not the metallurgy of the rivets, it was the design of the riveted joints."

He said that the company used only two rivets at the site of impact, when three would have provided more strength and durability.

into the child's room, where he allegedly sprayed butane gas on her. The child managed to take away the butane canister from the defendant.

Nobody called the police that night but the following morning when Gutierrez went to work, the common-law wife called 911. The defendant was then arrested. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Delta Chairman Daniel Carp will become chairman of the new board of directors and Northwest Chairman Roy Bostock will become vice chairman. Delta President and Chief Financial Officer Ed Bastian will retain his titles.

The new board will be made up of 13 members, seven of whom will come from Delta's board, including Anderson, and five of whom will come from Northwest's board, including Bostock and Doug Steenland, the current Northwest CEO. One director will come from the Air Line Pilots Association, the union that represents pilots from both carriers. Anderson told reporters on a conference call it will be a Delta pilot holding the voting seat.

There will be an unspecified number of job cuts or transfers through the consolidation of overlapping corporate and administrative functions, Delta said. The two airlines employ more than 80,000 people combined. The company expects no involuntary furloughs of front-line employees and said the existing pension plans for both companies' employees will be protected. Delta doesn't plan to close any of the two airlines' hubs.

Based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Northwest Airlines is one of the world's largest airlines with hubs at Detroit, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Memphis, Tokyo and Amsterdam, and approximately 1,400 daily departures. Northwest is a member of SkyTeam, an airline alliance that offers customers one of the world's most extensive global networks. Northwest and its travel partners serve more than 900 cities in excess of 160 countries on six continents.

Delta Air Lines, for its part, operates an expansive domestic and international network, spanning North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the Caribbean. It flies to over 332 destinations in 57 countries (excluding codeshare), across five continents. Delta Air Lines is also the only major U.S. carrier that flies to Africa. (*With reports from AP*)

BOE

From Page 1

"drastic" measures that included the furlough of the Public School System's 836 employees and the shutdown of the entire PSS in anticipation of the Legislature's failure to pass a new budget before May 1.

However, BOE chairwoman Lucia Blanco-Maratita is now saying that "enhanced efforts will be made to conserve energy by closing schools during the summer vacation period to attain a utility cost savings."

Blanco-Maratita said that the Public School System is seriously considering going back to the traditional school calendar and open schools the day after Labor Day to realize additional month of utility savings.

She explained that by doing this, "It would reduce the utility expense for this fiscal year" and that "it would also allow PSS an additional month to recruit hard-to-fill positions in special education and upper level high school mathematics."

Blanco-Maratita said the BOE is working with the Legislature on finding the additional funds that are needed

to cover the unbudgeted utility expenses. She explained that conservation coupled with some additional funding is the solution.

"The effort to make certain that every child has the opportunity to achieve success in school also requires adequate funding from the Legislature and the central government," Blanco-Maratita said.

She added that, "We want to continue the nine year trend of improving student scores on the SAT10 and other assessment. We want this to become a 10-year trend."

The Sat10 will be administered next week from April 21 to April 25.

Northern Marianas College in addressing its accreditation problems.

The chief justice of the Supreme Court is the highest paid government official, making \$130,000 a year. Each full-time associate justice of the Supreme Court makes \$126,000 a year.

Meanwhile, the presiding judge of the Superior Court makes \$130,000 a year. The salary of each associate judge of the Superior Court is \$126,000 a year.

The governor is paid \$70,000 a year, and the lieutenant governor \$60,000. The 20 representatives and nine senators each make \$39,000 a year.

Each of the three mayors earns a salary of \$43,200 a year.

SALARY

From Page 1

House Bill 16-84, sponsored by Rep. Ralph Anthony Torres, would create that advisory commission. The panel will consist of two members from the House of Representatives, one from the Senate, one from the Executive Branch, and one from the Judiciary.

The specific purpose of the commission is to study and recommend a pay cut within 30 days upon being organized. A grace period of 15 days is provided. If the commission fails to submit a recommendation 45 days after being

formed, it will be deemed to have approved a 10-percent pay cut.

The commission is not allowed to consider a salary increase.

A 10-percent salary cut against all elected officials will save the government about \$213,560 a year.

The bill sets a schedule for how the savings from the pay cut should be allocated.

Forty percent will go to the Commonwealth Health Center for needs related to infrastructure and purchase of medical equipment and supplies. Forty percent will go to the Public School System for academic purposes. The remaining 20 percent will be used to help

underwriters receive 1.25 Delta shares for each Northwest share they own. The exchange ratio represents a premium to Northwest shareholders of 16.8 percent based on Monday's closing stock prices.

That currently values Northwest at almost \$3.63 billion based on 277 million Northwest shares that the companies said are outstanding.

Delta said the combined airline, which will be called Delta, will have an enterprise value of \$17.7 billion, which includes the combined market values of the two companies and combined net debt. It will be based in Atlanta, and Delta CEO Richard Anderson will head the combined company.

NMI response team completes hazmat training

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Twenty-five members of the CNMI's Emergency Response Team for Hazmat completed yesterday a five-day training on hazardous materials at Palms Resort Saipan.

Three officials from the All Hazard Management Professionals (AMPRO) conducted the training. The Emergency Management Office under director Mark Pangelinan sponsored the event.

The members of Emergency Response Team for Hazmat are from the police, fire, emergency management services, Department of Public Works, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and Division of Environmental Quality.

AMPRO president and lead instructor John Scott told *Saipan Tribune* that they spent the first four days of the training in classrooms; the last day consisted of practicing all the skills they learned in the field.

"The skills they are learning include things like setting up control zones, decontamination station setup and proce-



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Twenty-five members of the CNMI's Emergency Response Team For Hazmat and instructors from All Hazard Management Professionals (AMPRO) headed by its president and lead instructor John Scott gather for a photo after the successful five-day training on hazardous materials sponsored by the Emergency Management Office at Palms Resort Saipan yesterday.

dures, how to work as a team for emergency recovery of victims, stopping leaks and dealing with hazardous material spills, and how to use the specialized equipment," Scott said.

He said it is good that the CNMI's Emergency Response Team for Hazmat is composed of several agencies.

"That's the way we want to do on all hazard response:

To have representatives from all the agencies so we can spread out both the skills and give us some depth on the team so it is not handled by just one agency like the fire department," he said.

Scott said it's really all about learning different skills and different parts of a response.

Citing a scenario of a traffic accident dealing with flam-

mable chemical and toxic materials, which they did yesterday afternoon, Scott said the team learned how to work together, organized their work space, used the equipment, and did procedural things like decontamination.

The participants received the Office of Domestic Preparedness or Homeland Security certification and were certified as

Occupational Safety and Health Administration hazmat technicians. In addition, all firemen received pre-board certification.

"So everyone will get at least two certificates and the firemen will get three," Scott said.

He said the trainees are very excellent.

"I feel that we did a good job as instructors and they've done their part as students," the lead

instructor said.

Assistant instructor J.D. Robinson said the training went very well.

"They just conducted an hour and a half test which we graded and it seems that everybody did very well. The actual exercise went very well," Robinson said.

AMPRO safety manager Terry Badley also helped in the training.

Villagomez urges employers to promote healthy workplaces

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez said yesterday that employers must recognize the vital role the workplace plays in the prevention of sexual violence.

"We are promoting a healthy work environment, where every employee feels—and is—safe," said Villagomez in signing a proclamation declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Villagomez underscored the importance of focusing awareness on sexual violence in the community and its prevention.

"We recognize sexual violence as a public health issue and we reinforce the need for prevention efforts," he said during the signing ceremony held at the Governor's Office's conference room.

Present at the ceremony were members and supporters of the Family Violence Task Force that includes Karidat/Guma Esperansa, Adult Probation, Ayuda Network Inc., Family Court, Department of Public Safety, Division of Youth Services, Rota Health Center, Criminal Justice Planning Agency, Attorney General's Office, Commonwealth Health Center, Community Guidance Center, and Lugat Pas (Domestic Violence Intervention Center).

This month, Villagomez said, the administration is recognizing the efforts of individuals and agencies that provide rape crisis intervention and prevention services.

Villagomez said these agen-

cies offer support to sexual assault survivors, victims and their families.

"At this point I would like to make clear: If you are a victim of sexual assault, it is not your fault. These agencies are here to help you. It is not your fault," he said.

This year's theme is Prevent Sexual Violence In Our Workplaces.

"We all must join together with the Family Violence Task Force and the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence to support each other in our work and to provide the Commonwealth and our citizens with a source of information on sexual assault," Villagomez said in the proclamation. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



LEI OGUMORO

Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez and Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo pose with members and supporters of the Family Violence Task Force and the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence during yesterday's proclamation signing for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Live-fire training on Farallon

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, said that the U.S. military would be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla on Tuesday, April 22, from 7am to 1:30pm and from 6pm to 12am.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area on Tuesday.

Should you have any questions, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone num-

bers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

MHS Class of '88 meeting set

Members of the Marianas High School Class of 1988 are being informed that there will be a meeting on April 23, 2008, at 6:30pm, at the residence of Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda in As Lito, behind Saipan International School (SIS).

Reunion day is just around the corner. Final details to be discussed, for this reason all classmates are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

For more information you may contact Lillian Lizama Tudela at 287-3742 or Dennis Villagomez at 287-4689. (PR)

CNMI students join 18th Youth for Youth Conference in Guam

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI's Teen Talk Youth Group flew to Guam Thursday to take part in the 18th Annual Youth For Youth Conference.

The conference, which will take place the entire weekend at the Hyatt Regency Guam, aims to foster effective leadership and goal-setting skills.

According to adult registration chair Athena Duenas, students will also learn how to use

powerful influence and creativity to turn peer pressure from a negative into a positive.

The conference will also provide clear messages to teens saying that it is their responsibility as teens to say to "no" to drugs, tobacco, violence and other forms of negative behavior.

Duenas said that the 2007 Youth For Youth Conference was, by "many accounts, a huge success."

Over 400 middle and high school students from CNMI, Guam, Rota, Palau and other

neighboring Micronesian islands attended last year's annual conference.

The Youth For Youth LIVE organization is a community-based non-profit organization teaching youth to use their creativity to ward off negative peer pressure behavior.

Sharleen Crisostomo, CNMI Teen Talk adviser and chaperone to this year's conference, said, "There has been so many things that my youth group has done over the years."

Last month, the CNMI Teen Talk organized a Youth Summit focusing on the importance of youth development and empowerment.

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The hunger threat

While the United States has been focusing on new security threats such as terrorism and bioweapons, an ancient cause of human strife is re-emerging. Global hunger was supposed to have been tamed by the Green Revolution, freer markets and wealthier consumers, but the World Bank now estimates that 33 countries are gripped by social unrest because of soaring food and energy prices. In just two months, rice prices have risen 75 percent globally, and wheat prices are up 120 percent compared with a year ago. That's a calamity for the billion people who live in extreme poverty—and for many of their governments. This month alone, food riots have broken out in Indonesia, the Philippines and Cameroon, and five people were killed in clashes in Haiti that brought down the prime minister.

The U.N. World Food Program has called for \$500 million in emergency donations, and President Bush responded Monday with \$200 million. Despite flak from the farm lobby, the White House is sticking to its position that the food should be purchased locally, where possible, to cut the transportation and distribution costs that can eat up half of the food-aid budget. To stretch the aid money further, Congress should buck the labor unions and lift the requirement that American food aid be shipped on U.S.-flagged vessels.

But short-term emergency aid won't be enough. There are many causes for the run-up in prices: drought and disease, probably worsened by climate change; rising demand in India and China; rising demand for crops to make biofuels, which some developing countries call a "crime against humanity"; the fall of the U.S. dollar, which makes dollar-denominated food more costly; and speculators pulling money out of the stock market and real estate derivatives and pouring it into the commodities market. So higher prices will probably persist—even if the U.S. and Europe were to cut subsidies for ethanol made from foodstuffs.

Some of the best thinking about the global food problem is being done at the World Bank under its activist new president, Robert H. Zoellick. He has doubled agricultural assistance to Africa and is calling for a "new deal" that combines emergency food aid with long-term efforts to boost production in developing nations. An accomplished former deputy secretary of State and U.S. trade representative, Zoellick knows a thing or two about how protectionism distorts international markets. He shouldn't hesitate to haul his bully pulpit up to Capitol Hill and ask Congress to correct some of the most misguided U.S. agricultural policies—starting with the expensive and environmentally destructive farm bill.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times



The future will be here before you know it

The most important things happening in the world today won't make tomorrow's front page. They won't get mentioned by presidential candidates or Chris Matthews or Bill O'Reilly or any of the other folks yammering and snorting on cable television.

They'll be happening in laboratories—out of sight, inscrutable and unhyped until the very moment when they change life as we know it.

Science and technology form a two-headed, unstoppable change agent. Problem is, most of us are mystified and intimidated by such things as biotechnology, or nanotechnology, or the various other -ologies that seem to be threatening to merge into a single unspeakable and incomprehensible thing called biotechnonanogenomicology. We vaguely understand that this stuff is changing our lives, but we feel as though it's all out of our control. We're just hanging on tight, like Kirk and Spock when the Enterprise starts vibrating at Warp 8.

What's unnerving is the velocity at which the future sometimes arrives. Consider the Internet. This powerful but highly disruptive technology crept out of the lab (a Pentagon think tank, actually) and all but devoured modern civilization—with almost no warning. The first use of the word "internet" to refer to a computer network seems to have appeared in this newspaper on Sept. 26, 1988, in the Financial section, on page F30—about as deep into the paper as you can go without hitting the bedrock of the classified ads.

The entire reference: "SMS Data Products Group Inc. in McLean (Va.) won a \$1,005,048 contract from the Air Force to supply a defense data network internet protocol router." Perhaps the unmellifluous compound noun "data network internet protocol router" is one reason more of us didn't pay attention. A couple of months later, "Internet"—still lacking the "the" before its name—finally elbowed its way to the front page when a virus shut down thousands of computers. The story referred to "a research network called Internet," which "links as many as 50,000 computers, allowing users to send a variety of information to each other." The scientists knew that computer networks could be powerful. But how many knew that this Internet thing would change the way we communicate, publish, sell, shop, conduct research, find old friends, do homework, plan trips and on and on?

Joe Lykken, a theoretical physicist at the Fermilab research center in Illinois, tells a story about something that happened in 1990. A Fermilab visitor, an English fellow by the name of Tim Berners-Lee, had a new trick he wanted to demonstrate to the physicists. He typed some code into a little blank box on the computer screen. Up popped a page of data.

Lykken's reaction: Eh.

He could already see someone else's data on a computer. He could have the colleague e-mail it to him and open it as a document.

By JOEL ACENBACH

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Joel Achenbach is a reporter on the national staff of The Washington Post. Author email: achenbachj@washpost.com.



Why view it on a separate page on some computer network?

But of course, this unimpressive piece of software was the precursor to what is known today as the World Wide Web. "We had no idea that we were seeing not only a revolution, but a trillion-dollar idea," Lykken says.

Now let us pause to reflect upon the fact that Joe Lykken is a very smart guy—you don't get to be a theoretical physicist unless you have the kind of brain that can practically bend silverware at a distance—and even he, with that giant cerebral cortex and the billions of neurons flashing and winking, saw the proto-Web and harrumphed. Even scientists don't always grasp the significance of innovations. Tomorrow's revolutionary technology may be in plain sight, but everyone's eyes, clouded by conventional thinking, just can't detect it. "Even smart people are really pretty incapable of envisioning a situation that's substantially different from what they're in," says Christine Peterson, vice president of Foresight Nanotech Institute in Menlo Park, Calif.

So where does that leave the rest of us?

In technological Palookaville.

Science is becoming ever more specialized; technology is increasingly a series of black boxes, impenetrable to but a few. Americans' poor science literacy means that science and technology exist in a walled garden, a geek ghetto. We are a technocracy in which most of us don't really understand what's happening around us. We stagger through a world of technological and medical miracles. We're zombified by progress.

Peterson has one recommendation: Read science fiction, especially "hard science fiction" that sticks rigorously to the scientifically possible. "If you look out into the long-term future and what you see looks like science fiction, it might be wrong," she says. "But if it doesn't look like science fiction, it's definitely wrong."

That's exciting—and a little scary. We want the blessings of science (say, cheaper energy sources) but not the terrors (monsters spawned by atomic radiation that destroy entire cities with their fiery breath).

Eric Horvitz, one of the sharpest minds at Microsoft, spends a lot

See THE FUTURE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Enemy No. 3 in Iraq

Why is the Iraq war different from all other American wars? (Passover is upon us, so I've posed the question in correct Passover-ese.)

In each of our other wars, American soldiers fought the same adversaries from start to finish. We fought the British in the Revolution and the War of 1812, Mexico in the Mexican War and so on. Only in the Korean War did we have to engage an additional nation's army (that of China) after the war began—and if Douglas MacArthur hadn't pushed to the Chinese border, we might have fought only North Korea. In a number of wars, our enemies received aid from other nations (Vietnam from the Soviet Union, for instance), but the actual combat involved fighting only our original adversary.

Not so in Iraq, where we are now fighting our third distinct enemy. In the war's first phase, we engaged Saddam Hussein's government and, after it fell, pro-Saddam Hussein and other Sunni forces that waged a guerrilla war against us. In its second phase, we fought a group that hadn't even existed when the invasion began, al-Qaida in Iraq. By our own military's admission, al-Qaida in Iraq was never responsible for more than a small fraction of the violence there, but it was the group most implacably hostile to our soldiers and to much of the civilian population. In this, we were greatly aided by the Sunni forces that had been our main adversaries in the war's first phase but which had come to loathe al-Qaida. As the Sunni resistance took up arms against al-Qaida, we reclassified the Sunnis as friends and armed them, though they remained opposed to the Shiite-dominated national government we claim as our primary ally.

Now, according to the testimony of Gen. David Petraeus and

Ambassador Ryan Crocker before Congress last week, our main adversaries in Iraq are the Shiite forces being aided by Iran, the Shiite power next door. Al-Qaida in Iraq has been largely confined to the area around Mosul, and most of the attacks on U.S. forces and on the authority of the Iraqi government, they said, come from Iranian-backed Shiite militias, many aligned with Moqtada al-Sadr, who has spent the past several months in Iran. Then again, Iran also backs the Shiite-controlled government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki—which is why it was Iran that negotiated the cease-fire between Maliki's forces and Shiite militias after Maliki's offensive against the militias in Basra ground to a halt.

The political underpinning for Maliki's government comes chiefly from anti-Sadr Shiite factions, most notably the Hakim family and its Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, which was headquartered in Iran during much of Saddam Hussein's reign and, indeed, was actually founded by Iran's governing clerics. That's one reason Maliki's government accorded a rapturous public reception to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad when he visited Baghdad last month, while President Bush still slips in and out of Baghdad like a thief in the night. The pro-Iranian tilt of the current government, and almost certainly of any Shiite-dominated government, is the reason none of the Middle East's Sunni nations—Saudi Arabia, Egypt or any of the rest—has diplomatic relations with Baghdad.

Our current policy in Iraq, then, is to defend those Shiite groups aligned with Maliki, their closeness to Iran notwithstanding, against those Shiite groups, also close to Iran, aligned either with Sadr or in any event against Maliki. And just because we're now focusing on enemy No. 3 doesn't mean that enemy No. 1, the Sunni insurgents, won't

By HAROLD MEYERSON

Special to The Washington Post

Meyerson is editor-at-large of *American Prospect* and the L.A. Weekly.



take the field again against Maliki and our own forces—only this time, they'll have the arms we gave them to fight al-Qaida in Iraq.

Our war in Iraq, then, is different from all our previous wars because we are occupying a nation at war with itself, where groups take up arms against us because we defend a government to which they're not reconciled, a government that may itself pose a strategic threat to our interests. In such a nation, we accumulate enemies simply through our ongoing presence.

If our chief concern is, as we now assert, the spread of Iranian influence, what we need is a Sunni-led government, which could not attain or hold power in majority-Shiite Iraq save by force. That is, we need another Saddam Hussein, only this time, one less antagonistic to the United States. But this would be a resolution we could not support, because it would make a mockery of our entire misadventure in Iraq.

And this is the war that John McCain wants to wage until victory is ours. What no one—including McCain, Petraeus, Crocker and Bush—can do is articulate just what such a victory would look like.

The young and the restless

As go the young, so go the futures of political parties.

In the fierce and seemingly endless battle between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, the enthusiastic involvement of an unprecedented number of young people—roughly 14 percent of Democratic primary voters, up from 9 percent in 2004—presents the Democrats with an extraordinary opportunity to reshape U.S. politics in the coming years. It is theirs to seize or to squander.

Studies over the last half a century have repeatedly shown that voter preferences among most people in their teens and 20s have not yet crystallized—a pattern referred to by social scientists as the “impressionable years” hypothesis. Yet, in response to the key historical events a generation encounters in late adolescence and early adulthood, young people begin to develop more stable political beliefs and party preferences. More often than not, those party allegiances—even the habit of voting—will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Historically, political realignments have begun with the young. In the face of the Depression, people in their 20s rejected Herbert Hoover and flocked to Franklin Roosevelt. Most of them went on to develop enduring identities as Democrats. That generation's staunch loyalty was integral to the Democratic Party's political dominance through the mid-1960s. As late as 2006, the voters who came of age in the 1930s remained solidly Democratic, outnumbering Republicans 57 percent to 38 percent.

A parallel development—this one benefiting the Republicans—took place in the 1980s. Drawn to the optimism and clarity of Ronald Reagan, for the first time in decades a majority of young people

who cast ballots voted Republican. These young voters in turn went on to become a cornerstone of Republican dominance of presidential politics over the last quarter of a century.

The future political loyalties of today's 18- to 29-year-olds—a huge group of 42 million—are still very much up for grabs. Nonetheless, their preferences in the primaries so far are clear. Among this group, Obama has won 22 of the 25 Democratic primaries for which exit poll data are available. In 13 of these states (including Missouri, Virginia, Wisconsin, Georgia, Illinois and Maryland), Obama won by margins of greater than 30 points. Even in the states Clinton most recently won, Ohio and Texas, he led among 18- to 29-year-olds by 26 and 19 points, respectively. In fact, were 18- to 29-year-olds alone to decide the Democratic nominee, Obama would win nationwide by a landslide of at least 20 points.

Especially important when it comes to future trends, Obama's appeal extends to the sizable number of young independents and Republicans who have voted in this year's Democratic primaries. (Though the young lean Democratic, between a quarter and a third of this generation identifies as “independent.”) And—perhaps of greatest long-term significance—the battle for the Democratic nomination has captured the imagination of young people and stimulated record levels of participation.

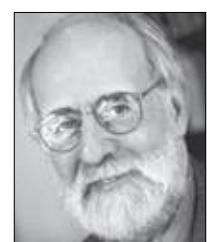
In Obama, the Democratic Party has a potential nominee who offers a unique opportunity to bring the younger generation firmly into the political process, to make many of its members lifelong Democrats and perhaps to lay the groundwork for a historic realignment on the scale of Roosevelt and Reagan.

Yet with Democratic primary voters split nearly 50-50 so far, and

By JEROME KARABEL

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Karabel is a professor of sociology at the University of California at Berkeley and the author of *The Chosen*, an award-winning book on the history of admission and exclusion at Harvard, Yale and Princeton.



with 10 primaries still to come, it remains possible that Obama will not be the party's nominee. Although there is no denying Clinton's many strengths, the ability to inspire young people is not among them. Should she rather than Obama emerge as the Democratic nominee, the developing but still fragile bond between the young and the Democratic Party could well be shattered. And should her nomination come about in apparent defiance of the popular will, a sense of outrage might drive many in the younger generation away from the Democratic Party and perhaps from politics altogether.

It is now clear that neither Obama nor Clinton will be able to win enough pledged delegates to clinch the Democratic nomination. In all likelihood, it will fall to the superdelegates to resolve the increasingly bitter contest between them. As they search for the wisest course of action, they would do well to remember that today's young people—those born between 1979 and 1990—will still be a major electoral force in the 2050s and beyond. If the party alienates them, it will be a mistake whose reverberations will be felt for decades to come.

THE FUTURE

From Page 6

of time thinking about the Next Big Thing. Among his other duties, he's president of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence. He thinks that, sometime in the decades ahead, artificial systems will be modeled on living things. In the Horvitz view, life is marked by robustness, flexibility, adaptability. That's where computers need to go. Life, he says, shows scientists “what we can do as engineers—better, potentially.”

Our ability to monkey around with life itself is a reminder that ethics, religion and old-fashioned common sense will be needed in abundance in decades to come. How smart and flexible and ram-bunctious do we want our computers to be? Let's not mess around with that Matrix business.

Every forward-thinking person almost ritually brings up the mortality issue. What'll happen to society if one day people can stop the aging process? Or if only rich people can stop getting old?

It's interesting that politicians rarely address such matters. The future in general is something of a suspect topic ... a little goofy. Right now we're all focused on the next primary, the summer con-

ventions, the Olympics and their political implications, the fall election. The political cycle enforces an emphasis on the urgent rather than the important.

And in fact, any prediction of what the world will be like more than, say, a year from now is a matter of hubris. The professional visionaries don't even talk about predictions or forecasts but prefer the word “scenarios.” When Sen. John McCain, for example, declares that radical Islam is the transcendent challenge of the 21st century, he's being sincere, but he's also being a bit of a soothsayer. Environmental problems and resource scarcity could easily be the dominant global dilemma. Or a virus with which we've yet to make our acquaintance. Or some other “wild card.”

Says Lykken, “Our ability to predict is incredibly poor. What we all thought when I was a kid was that by now we'd all be flying around in anti-gravity cars on Mars.”

Futurists didn't completely miss on space travel—it's just that the things flying around Mars are robotic and take neat pictures and sometimes land and sniff the soil.

Some predictions are bang-on, such as sci-fi writer Arthur C. Clarke's declaration in 1945 that there would someday be communications satellites orbiting the Earth. But Clarke's satellites had to be occupied by repairmen who would maintain the huge computers

required for space communications. Even in the late 1960s, when Clarke collaborated with Stanley Kubrick on the screenplay to “2001: A Space Odyssey,” he assumed that computers would, over time, get bigger. “The HAL 9000 computer fills half the spaceship,” Lykken notes.

Says science-fiction writer Ben Bova, “We have built into us an idea that tomorrow is going to be pretty much like today, which is very wrong.”

The future is often viewed as an endless resource of innovation that will make problems go away—even though, if the past is any judge, innovations create their own set of new problems. Climate change is at least in part a consequence of the invention of the steam engine in the early 1700s and all the industrial advances that followed.

Look again at the Internet. It's a fantastic tool, but it also threatens to disperse information we'd rather keep under wraps, such as our personal medical data, or even the instructions for making a fission bomb.

We need to keep our eyes open. The future is going to be here sooner than we think. It'll surprise us. We'll try to figure out why we missed so many clues. And we'll go back and search the archives, and see that thing we should have noticed on page F30.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲85° ▾75°

▲85° ▾76°

▲85° ▾75°

▲84° ▾75°

▲85° ▾75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲87 ▾75
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▾76
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲87 ▾77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲88 ▾76
Pohnpei	TStorms	▲81 ▾71
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▾76
Majuro	TStorms	▲84 ▾75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲61 ▾46
Beijing	Cloudy	▲74 ▾56
Hong Kong	Rain	▲78 ▾73
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▾71
London	Rain	▲52 ▾43
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲66 ▾50
Manila	Cloudy	▲89 ▾76
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲72 ▾58
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲81 ▾71
New York	Partly Sunny	▲74 ▾57
Osaka	Cloudy	▲61 ▾52
Paris	Rain	▲55 ▾45
Pusan	Sunny	▲71 ▾50
Rome	Cloudy	▲67 ▾55
Salem	Showers	▲47 ▾32
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲57 ▾46
Seoul	Sunny	▲77 ▾49
Tokyo	Rain	▲61 ▾48
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲76 ▾55

Tides

Saipan Harbor	
1:00AM Today	Low Tide: 0.6 Feet
6:44AM Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet
1:33PM Today	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet
7:48PM Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

	Today	6:00AM	6:32PM	Today	5:35PM	5:28AM*
Sunday	6:00AM	6:32PM		Sunday	6:23PM	6:06AM*
Monday	5:59AM	6:33PM		Monday	7:13PM	6:46AM*
Tuesday	5:59AM	6:33PM		Tuesday	8:05PM	7:29AM*
Wednesday	5:58AM	6:33PM		Wednesday	8:57PM	8:16AM*

Moonrise/Moonset

	Today	5:35PM	5:28AM*
Sunday	6:23PM	6:06AM*	
Monday	7:13PM	6:46AM*	
Tuesday	8:05PM	7:29AM*	
Wednesday	8:57PM	8:16AM*	

*Following Day

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

ISLAND SNAPSHOT

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO 9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily
CO 9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6
CO 9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota
CO 9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily
CO 9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily
CO 9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily
CO 9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya
NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily

Saipan-Manila

CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6
CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1
OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6
CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7
CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror
CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily
PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guangzhou

CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5

Guam-Rota

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Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral

Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center

Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish

Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish

Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Sunday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish

Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish

Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota

Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota

Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish

Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish

Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish

Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios

Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad

Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan

Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8:10:30pm

Saturday Tagalog Service: 8:10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7:30pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan

Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan

Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30-7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan

Worship Service: 9am
GBC Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan

Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church

Koblerville
Sunday Services 9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)

Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 19, 1999

FAS citizens won't be cut from health care: Villagomez

The Department of Public Health will continue to provide health care to nationals of the Federated States of Micronesia despite the recent opinion of the federal government that the CNMI will not violate any law should they decide to drop them from Medicaid. However, DPH Secretary Kevin Joe Villagomez said FAS nationals would become a burden more to the community if they are left on their own. However, the CNMI would be reimbursed 50 percent of the medical expenses by the federal government if the FAS people here are under Medicaid.

Tan Holdings makes substantial compliance

Tan Holdings Corp. has already completed 85 percent of the requirements imposed by the Department of Public Health including structural changes in the factory's kitchen to ensure the safety and cleanliness of food preparation. According to Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez, employees working in the factory's kitchen have complied with the food handlers examination and attended the health seminar as part of the department's requirement after the food poisoning incident nearly a month ago.

Legislator praises CPA incentives plan

The chair of the House Commerce and Tourism Committee hailed a plan by the Commonwealth Ports Authority to grant incentives to all airlines in an attempt to stimulate traffic and revive the faltering tourism economy as he urged the government to step up its campaign to entice visitors. Rep. Oscar M. Bautista said it is a timely move to lower landing fees and passenger facility charge for existing airlines, allowing international carriers to maintain its direct flights to Saipan, while increasing their seating capacity.

April 19, 2000

OPA investigates CPA's sole-sourcing of contracts

The Office of the Public Auditor has opened an investigation on the way the Commonwealth Ports Authority awarded some contracts for services to private companies without the benefit of a public bidding, government documents disclosed. Public Auditor Leo LaMotte is asking ports authority officials to explain why they canceled the Request for Proposals, which CPA issued last year for marine consultancy services.

No date set yet for release of rebate checks

The Department of Finance has deposited between \$15 million to \$17 million to a trust account that will be used to pay out rebates and refunds to more than 30,000 taxpayers in the CNMI. But Finance Sec. Lucy DLG. Nielsen disclosed the department has yet to set the date for the release of the checks, saying only that they are on target in their tax collection.

March arrivals post flat growth

Visitor arrivals for the month of March reached 44,355 representing a flat growth compared to the same period of the previous year, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority. As Japan's arrival record failed to show any improvement during this period, tourism officials see a little hope on the continuous increase in visitor arrivals from Korea which jumped 36 percent.

April 19, 2001

CNMI consumers brace for higher power rates

Tinian and Rota will be adversely affected by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's soon-to-be implemented rate increase in hopes to recoup revenue losses and to aid maintenance of power plants. According to the 10-year rate structure proposal approved by the CUC board last week, the power corporation needs to implement new rates to get all utility services going.

CNMI's CIP funds used as Compact-Impact payment

There is apparently nothing to be happy about the half-a-million-dollar federal appropriations received by the Commonwealth as partial payment to the fiscal impacts of the Compacts of Free Association. It turned out that the \$500,000 Compact-Impact allocation from the Fiscal year 2002 budget submitted by President George W. Bush to the US Congress already belonged to the CNMI under the Section 702 funding.

Business

Oil prices hover at \$115 a barrel

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices held near a record above \$115 a barrel Friday amid concerns about falling supplies and rising global demand.

A host of supply and demand concerns in the U.S. and abroad, as well as the depreciating dollar, have pushed crude prices up more than 4 percent this week.

Light, sweet crude for May delivery rose 15 cents to \$115.01 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore.

On Thursday, the May contract hit a trading record of \$115.54 a barrel in European trading hours as the dollar fell to a new low against the euro. Crude finished the floor session down 7 cents at \$114.86 a barrel after falling back when the dollar strengthened.

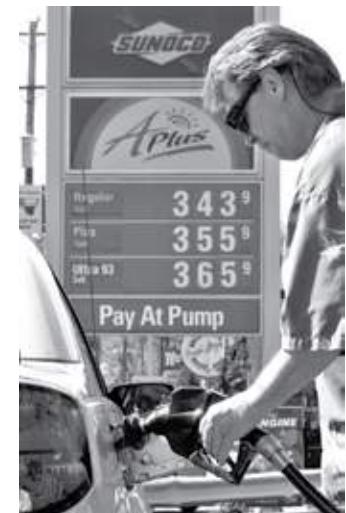
"In general, a weak U.S. dollar ... has some valuation effect on oil prices and other commodities," said David Moore, a commodity strategist with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Sydney.

Investors have been buying oil contracts as a hedge against the weakening dollar, betting that rising commodity prices will offset dollar declines.

Prices were supported by a U.S. Energy Department report on inventories, released Wednesday, that showed gasoline supplies fell 5.5 million barrels last week - much more than what analysts had expected.

That slide comes as the U.S. heads into its peak summer driving season, a period when demand and retail gasoline prices surge.

The department's Energy Information Administration report also showed crude



Chris Caffee of Pittsburgh pumps gas in Mt. Lebanon, Pa., Thursday, April 17, 2008.

inventories fell 2.3 million barrels for the same period.

Moore said strengthening demand in other parts of the world was also supporting oil prices.

"Outside of the U.S., oil demand in some areas has remained firm," Moore said. "Indicative of that was the recent Chinese trade data, which showed very strong growth in both crude oil imports and imports of oil products."

The Chinese government last week reported that China's oil imports surged to a record 17.3 million tons in March, as the country nearly unseated Japan as the world's second-largest buyer of foreign crude oil. China imported an average of just over 4 million barrels a day, according to calculations based on data from China's Customs Administration.

An International Energy Agency report that said Russian oil production dropped this year for the first time in a decade also helped to boost prices.

Economy sends signals of more weaknesses to come

NEW YORK (AP)—Higher unemployment claims and weak readings from two economic indexes reinforced recession worries Thursday.

The Labor Department said Thursday that applications for unemployment benefits rose to 372,000, an increase of 17,000 from the previous week.

Separately, the New York-based Conference Board's gauge of future economic activity rose 0.1 percent for March, reversing five months of decline. But the private business group's indicator has shown a 3.3 percent annual rate of decline since March 2007.

That's "the kind of result, that whenever we've seen it in the past, the U.S. economy has been heading into a recession,"

Michael Gregory, senior economist for BMO Nesbitt Burns, a Toronto investment bank. "The recession signal here is clear and unequivocal."

Stocks drooped following a rally Wednesday, with the Dow Jones industrial average down 30.78, or 0.24 percent, to 12,588.49, in afternoon trading. The Standard & Poor's 500 index slipped 5.41, or 0.40 percent, to 1,359.30, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 18.80, or 0.80 percent, to 2,331.31.

The Conference Board index is designed to forecast economic activity in the next three to six months based on 10 economic components, including stock prices, building permits and initial claims for unemployment benefits.

Nation

Polygamous-sect hearing descends into farce

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—A court hearing to decide the fate of the 416 children swept up in a raid on a West Texas polygamous sect descended into farce Thursday, with hundreds of lawyers in two packed buildings shouting objections and the judge struggling to maintain order.

The case—clearly one of the biggest, most convoluted child-custody hearings in U.S. history—presented an extraordinary spectacle: big-city lawyers in suits and mothers in 19th-century, pioneer-style dresses, all packed into a courtroom and a nearby auditorium connected by video.

At issue was an attempt by

the state of Texas to strip the parents of custody and place the children in foster homes because of evidence they were being physically and sexually abused or in imminent danger of abuse by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a renegade Mormon splinter group suspected of forcing underage girls into marriage with older men.

As many feared, the proceedings turned into something of a circus—and a painfully slow one.

By evening, only three witnesses had testified, including state child welfare investigator Angie Voss, who said women may have had children when they were mi-

nors, some as young as age 13.

At least five girls who are younger than 18 are now pregnant or have children, Voss said.

No decisions had been made on the fate of any of the youngsters, and the hearing was to continue Friday.

Additional details on life at the ranch began to emerge as

Voss testified.

She said that if one of the men fell out of favor with the FLDS, his wives and children would be reassigned to other men. The children would then identify the new man as their father. Voss said that contributed to the problem of identifying children's family links and their ages.

Pope prays with victims of clergy sex abuse scandal

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI prayed with tearful victims of clergy sex abuse in a chapel Thursday, an extraordinary gesture from a pontiff who has made atoning for the great shame of the U.S. church the cornerstone of his first papal trip to America.

Benedict's third day in the U.S. began with a packed open-air Mass celebrated in 10 languages at a baseball stadium, and it included a speech to Roman Catholic college and university presidents.

But the real drama happened privately, in the chapel of the papal embassy between events.

The Rev. Federico Lombardi, a papal spokesman, said that Benedict and Boston Cardinal Sean O'Malley met with a group of five or six abuse victims for about 25 minutes, offering them encouragement and hope. The group from O'Malley's archdiocese were all adults, men and women, who had been molested when they were minors. Each spoke privately with the pope and the whole group prayed together.

One of the victims, Bernie McDaid, told The Associated Press that he shook the pope's hand, told him he was an altar boy and had been abused by a priest in the sacristy of his parish. The abuse, he told Benedict, was not only sexual but spiritual.

"I said, 'Holy Father, you need



AP

Pope Benedict XVI reacts to the crowd at the conclusion of a Papal Mass, Thursday, April 17, 2008, at Washington Nationals Park in Washington.

to know you have a cancer in your flock and I hope you will do something for this problem; you have to fix this,'" McDaid said. "He looked down at the floor and back at me, like, 'I know what you mean.' He took it in emotionally. We looked eye to eye."

Olan Horne, another Boston-area victim who prayed and talked with Benedict, told the AP, "There was an ... unscripted, unfiltered opportunity face-to-face. I believe we turned the

pope's head a little in the right direction."

Both men have worked with church officials in the aftermath of the crisis, including meeting with a new office established by U.S. bishops in response to the scandal.

Their sentiments were echoed by O'Malley, who called the

meeting "a very moving experience for all who participated."

"The Holy Father shared that he has come to the United States with great sorrow in his heart over this crisis and has been continuously praying for all who were affected," the cardinal said in a statement

Thursday night.

Oklahoma sheriff charged with using inmates as sex slaves

ARAPAHO, Okla. (AP)—Authorities have charged a western Oklahoma sheriff with coercing and bribing female inmates so he could use them in a sex-slave operation run out of his jail.

Custer County Sheriff Mike Burgess resigned Wednesday just as state prosecutors filed 35 felony charges against him, including 14 counts of second-degree rape, seven counts of forcible oral sodomy and five counts of bribery by a public official.

Burgess, the top officer in the county of 26,000 since 1994, appeared in court Wednesday and was released after posting \$50,000 bail.

"We are stunned," Undersheriff Kenneth Tidwell said Thursday.

Attorney Steve Huddleston said that he has not had a chance to review all the allegations against his client, but that "Mr. Burgess is anxious to go to court and clear his name."

Among other things, Burgess is accused of having sex with a female drug court participant who was in his custody. The crimes are to have occurred between October 2005 and April 2007.

ACROSS THE NATION

Praying passenger removed from plane at NY airport

NEW YORK (AP)—A passenger who left his seat to pray in the back of a plane before it took off, ignoring flight attendants' orders to return, was removed by an airport security guard, a witness and the airline said.

The Orthodox Jewish man, who wore a full beard, a black hat and a long black coat, stood near the lavatories and began saying his prayers while the United Airlines jet was being boarded at John F. Kennedy International Airport on Wednesday night, said Ori Brafman, a fellow passenger who spoke about the incident by phone from San Francisco, where he lives. When flight attendants urged the man, who was

carrying a religious book, to take his seat, he ignored them, Brafman said. When the man finally stopped praying, he explained that he couldn't interrupt his religious ritual and wasn't trying to be rude. But the attendants summoned a guard to remove him.

Murder conviction in LA insurance killings case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A 75-year-old woman was convicted Thursday of murdering a homeless man to collect life insurance, but the jury said it was deadlocked on another murder charge and a conspiracy count. The judge ordered more deliberations in an effort to conclude a trial that has spun a bizarre tale of a murder-for-profit scheme

carried out by two elderly women. Olga Ritterschmidt was convicted of the first-degree murder of Kenneth McDavid, 50, a day after she was found guilty of conspiring to murder him for financial gain. Her 77-year-old co-defendant, Helen Golay, was convicted Wednesday of murdering McDavid and Paul Vados, 73, and counts of conspiracy in both killings.

Methadone deaths are rising in New England

LACONIA, N.H. (AP)—Twenty-year-old Raymond DeLuca was one of 168 people to die of drug overdoses in New Hampshire last year. That was more than the number killed in car crashes. More than half the drug

deaths involved methadone, and an alarming eight of them happened in Laconia, a city of about 17,000. Nationwide, methadone deaths are increasing at a faster rate than any other drug-related deaths, the National Center for Health Statistics reported in February. According to the most recent data available, the number of methadone deaths nationwide rose from 786 in 1999 to 4,462 in 2005, a nearly six-fold increase. By comparison, fatal cocaine overdoses rose 63 percent, from 3,832 to 6,228. Though it is best known as a prescription drug that curbs heroin addiction, methadone has been increasingly prescribed as a pain medication, and officials say it is those pills that have led to the increase in deaths.

Maryland woman gives birth to rare quadruplets

TOWSON, Md. (AP)—A mother has given birth to a rare set of quadruplets in which three of the four boys are identical. The boys were born 11 weeks premature in January at Greater Baltimore Medical Center in Towson. The parents plan to introduce themselves and their boys at a news conference Friday.

There are fewer than 100 documented cases of "identical triplets plus one" in the United States, hospital officials said.

Two embryos were implanted into the mother, and both were fertilized, hospital spokesman Michael Schwartzberg said. One of them split, then split again, creating the identical triplets.

The boys were delivered by Caesarian section Jan. 29, their mother's 32nd birthday. Joshua Drew was born first, then Gavin Michael, Cody Benjamin and finally Logan Christopher, the non-identical one, Schwartzberg said.

The babies were treated at the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit, and all four have been home in Belcamp for about 2 1/2 weeks, Schwartzberg said.

Asia

Japanese Buddhist temple refuses the Olympic torch

TOKYO (AP)—A major Japanese Buddhist temple withdrew Friday from a plan to host the Beijing Olympics torch relay, amid speculation that the monks sympathize with Tibetan protesters.

Zenkoji Temple has refused to serve as the starting point for the April 26 relay, said Kunihiko Shinohara, secretary-general of the Nagano city organizing committee for the event. The relay has drawn protests around the world against China's crackdown on Tibetan demonstrators.

"We respect the temple's decision. This means the starting

point will change," he said after he met with Zenkoji monks earlier in the day.

NEW DELHI (AP)—Authorities sealed off the center of their normally frenetic capital Thursday with 15,000 police to protect the Olympic torch relay from anti-China protesters who held their pro-Tibet demonstrations elsewhere in India.

By the time the torchbearers had traversed the shortened New Delhi route of the round-the-world relay, protesters had come nowhere

near the Olympic flame—and only a few hundred selected guests had managed to see it at all.

Security was among the tightest ever in central New Delhi, with rings of protection—first, Chinese in blue tracksuits; then, Indians in red ones—surrounding torchbearers as they jogged from the presidential palace to the India Gate monument, which commemorates India's dead in World War I.

Another city official, Koichi Yajima, said the monks were concerned about the safety of the temple and its worshippers should the relay spark the angry demonstrations it has brought in Europe and the United States.

However, Japan's Jiji Press news agency quoted an unnamed priest saying as Zenkoji priests feel solidarity with people in Tibet as fellow Buddhists. Officials at the temple's secretariat said they could not confirm the report.

Suicide bomb kills 16 in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide attack in front of a mosque in southwestern Afghanistan killed 16 people and wounded more than 30 others on Thursday, a provincial governor said.

The attack took place as men were getting ready for the evening prayer at the central mosque in Zaranj, the capital of Nimroz province, Gov. Ghulam Dastagir Azad said.

Azad said there may have been more than one bomber.

"I'm not sure if it was single attack or a double attack," he said, noting that a district police chief and border reserve police commander were among the dead.

"The reports I've received from the hospital indicate that most people are in critical condition. I'm scared the death toll will rise," he said.

At least two other suicide attacks have hit Nimroz this month, including an attack on April 1 that left two policemen dead in Zaranj, and another on Saturday that killed two Indian road construction engineers and their Afghan driver in Khash Rod district.

Suicide attacks in Afghanistan spiked last year, with the Taliban launching more than 140 such missions—the highest number since the radical Islamist group was ousted from power by a U.S.-led invasion in 2001.

The official says Chief Juan Muniz will be flown to Mex-



In this Nov. 15, 1997 file photo, two little pilgrims in traditional kimonos play with pigeons at Zenkoji Temple in Nagano, Japan.

Seoul tentatively agrees to resume importing US beef

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea has tentatively agreed to resume U.S. beef imports that had been halted over concerns of mad cow disease, a news report said Friday, just hours before the two countries' leaders were to hold a summit.

Imports have been on hold since October when a U.S. shipment was found to contain animal parts that had been banned over mad cow concerns.

The report followed overnight negotiations in Seoul between the sides, which were drafting an agreement to be announced later Friday, Yonhap news agency reported, citing the Agriculture Ministry.

Ministry spokesman Kim Hyun-soo said the two sides reached agreement on "key sticking points" and were fine-

tuning the wording of an agreement. He did not elaborate, only saying there would be an announcement later Friday.

Scientists believe mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, spreads when farmers feed cattle recycled meat and bones from infected animals. Eating meat from infected animals is also believed to be linked to the rare but fatal brain-wasting human variant, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

The agreement, if confirmed, would be a concession by Seoul to the United States aimed at facilitating U.S. ratification of a broader free-trade deal struck last year between the two sides. The reported breakthrough came before South Korean President Lee Myung-bak was to start his first summit with President Bush on Friday.

World



Residents observe the scene of an overnight airstrike in Baghdad, Iraq, Thursday, April 17, 2008. U.S. helicopters struck a residential complex in Habibiyah, a Shiite dominated area on the edge of the militia stronghold of Sadr City, killing two civilians and wounding 6 others, police said.

Suicide bomber hits funeral north of Baghdad, killing 50

Al-Qaida leader: 5 years of US in Iraq brought 'failure'

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Al-Qaida's No. 2 leader claimed in an audiotape released Friday that five years of U.S. involvement in Iraq brought only defeat, and said President Bush will be forced to pass the problem to his successor.

Ayman al-Zawahri alleged that by heeding advice of his top commanders in Iraq and guaranteeing a heavy American military presence after July, Bush was "covering up for the failure" of his Iraq policies.

"If the American forces leave, they will lose everything. And if they stay, they will bleed to death," he argued.

The authenticity of the 16-minute recording, posted on a Web site known for militant messaging, could not be independently verified. But it carried the logo of al-Qaida's media wing and was the second in April attributed to the terror network's chief strategist.

He called for Muslim support of jihad in Iraq, and for backing al-Qaida's affiliate there, the so-called Islamic State of Iraq.

highlights how fragile those gains are.

Thursday's attack happened in the town of Albu Mohammad, about 90 miles north of Baghdad. A suicide bomber dressed in traditional Arab

But the new bloodshed

between Israeli forces and Gaza militants that killed three Israeli soldiers and 21 Palestinians, including five children and a news cameraman.

Gazans are angry over a nearly yearlong blockade of their borders, causing shortages in almost all commodities in the seaside territory. Israel generally halts all shipments after attacks like Thursday's.

Some analysts believe the militant group Hamas, which has controlled the Gaza Strip since last June, is trying to provoke an even worse situation for Gazans to ratchet up international pressure on Israel to relax the blockade.

Israel thwarts another infiltration try

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israeli troops fended off Palestinian gunmen who assaulted a crossing on the Gaza border Thursday, thwarting the third attempt by militants to infiltrate into Israel in a week.

One Palestinian was reportedly killed in the clash, which followed a day of fighting be-

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A Mexican federal official says the police chief of the border city of Reynosa has been arrested for allegedly protecting members of the Gulf drug cartel.

The official says Chief Juan Muniz will be flown to Mex-

ico City on Thursday to be questioned by organized crime investigators.

Muniz has been arrested by federal agents in Reynosa, across from McAllen, Texas, according to the official, who spoke on condition of ano-

nymity because he is not authorized to discuss the case.

Reynosa city officials have issued a news release saying Muniz was arrested Thursday afternoon. Muniz could not be immediately reached for comment and it was unclear if he had a lawyer.

Mexico lawmen arrest border police chief

Maharlika – PinoyNews

Rice prices still soaring

Exporters' offers could push cost to P49 a kilo

By AMY R. REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Prices of rice in the country, which imports more than 10 percent of its annual rice requirement and is the world's top importer this year, may retail as high as P49 a kilo because the surge in international prices is relentless.

Rice futures in the United States set another all-time high on Thursday, just ahead of a tender by the Philippines, for 500,000 metric tons.

The tender from the Philippines Thursday attracted offers to sell only about two-thirds of the volume it sought, a clear sign of the strain on rice output after major exporters began to curb exports earlier this year.

The Philippines received offers of between \$872.50 and \$1,220 a ton, sharply higher than the just over \$700 it paid in March.

Without factoring in shipping and other administrative costs,

POLO graduates 76 students

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 76 overseas Filipino workers in the CNMI recently graduated from three skills upgrading classes at the Philippine Overseas Labor Office: Advanced English Batch 2, Basic Computer Operations Batch 42 and Basic Computer Operations Class Batch 41. *See pictures on Page 16.*

The English Language Development Course Batch 2 took place from Feb. 9 to April 5, 2008, from 2pm to 5pm, while the Basic Computer Operations Batch Number 42 took place from Feb. 10 to April 13, 2008, from 9am to 12pm.

New graduates of the English Language Development Course are: Gregorio Bacnis Jr., Leonarda R. Benito, Elma A. Bonio, Winnie H. Deomano, Anatalia S. De Guzman, Marilou L. Espanola, Luz G. Gatdula, Shirley L. Igrobay, Dennis A. Jacoba, Arturo A. Mamaril, Bella S. Militante, Marcia A. Ogania, Julie D. Rafols, Himaya L. Saturno, Levi P. Sobremisana, Arturo S. Tagum, and Julie Ann P. Viola.

New graduates of the Basic Computer Operations Class Batch 42 are: Edgardo A. Agdoro, Raquel O. Aldan, Tina Marie G. Alverio, Leonida S. Apostel, Myrna C. Baliton, Saturnino L.

these price offers should translate to a retail price of at least P49 a kilo, far exceeding the price of government-subsidized rice set at P18.25 a kilo. Some commercial rice varieties are now being retailed at about P40 a kilo.

In Bangkok, Thai 100 percent B grade white rice, considered the world's benchmark, hit \$950 per ton, freight on board, up by 10 percent in just one week, and three times its price at the start of 2007, further fanning fears that millions across Asia will struggle to afford their staple food.

US rice futures surged over 2 percent to \$23.375 a hundred-weight on the Chicago Board of Trade to a record high for the third straight session.

Exporters offered to sell to the National Food Authority (NFA), the Philippine government-run grains agency, a total of only 325,750 tons—consisting of 290,750 tons of 25-percent broken rice and 35,000 tons of 5-percent broken rice.



Workers stack imported rice which will be repacked and sold to poor residents at a government warehouse in Manila's Quezon City, Philippines Thursday April 17, 2008. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has assured the public the Philippines has enough rice for the foreseeable future as officials vowed to crack down on hoarders amid skyrocketing food prices and tight grain supply. Rice imported from Vietnam and Thailand is the cheapest available on the market.

Int'l air agency cites RP's airport security

By TARRA QUISMUNDU
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Ninoy Aquino International Airport have received a thumbs up from an international civil aviation body for maintaining globally-compliant security procedures at its terminals, as aviation authorities continued to plug loopholes in the country's air safety systems and practices.

Security checks at the two terminals of the NAIA have been deemed of "high standard" and "commendably high" by inspectors from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) following a visit to the country last month.

"We always try to make our terminals safe. Security is one matter we can't relax watching over 24/7. I'm happy that after all our efforts, we passed," said

Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) General Manager Alfonso Cusi.

Citing ICAO's positive review, the Office for Transportation Security of the Department of Transportation and Communications informed the MIAA this month that it had been deemed compliant with standards and recommended practices of the ICAO on airport security following an audit un-

der its Cooperative Aviation Security Programme-Asia/Pacific (CASP-AP).

The letter, signed by Director Rogelio Bathan, said the evaluation by ICAO inspectors Ken Robinson and Graham Lockwood showed that "the screening processes of persons and baggage at the NAIA for access into security restricted areas was of high standard."

Q LABOR FRONT

Solicitation of sponsorships

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Q: What will happen to an alien worker who, in order to remain in the CNMI, pays the Department of Labor an application fee or a renewal fee that should be shouldered by an employer?

A: An alien worker who intentionally and knowingly violates CNMI law by paying an application fee or a renewal fee that should be paid by an employer solely in order to remain in the Commonwealth, under circumstances in which the employer provides no viable wage-paying job for the worker, may be deported.

According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, deportation, however, should be done if under all the circumstances of the case, such deportation is the appropriate remedy.

Q: What will happen to an alien worker who pays Labor an application fee or a renewal fee in con-

nnection with his or her existing, viable, wage-paying job?

A: The worker may not be deported. The new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations state that if the employer provides a viable job for which the worker has been employed, they have not participated in an illegal sponsorship arrangement involving sham employment.

Guest worker who pays an application fee or renewal fee under these circumstances may have a claim against the employer whose responsibility it is to pay the fee. The worker may be awarded damages if, under all the circumstances of the case, such damages are the appropriate remedy.

Similarly, a foreign national worker who pays an application fee or renewal fee without knowledge or intent to participate in an illegal sponsorship arrangement may not be deported on account of the violation of these sections. The Regulations state that a hearing officer may take account of the information about illegal sponsorships at an orientation session.

Q: What will happen to the employer who engages in an illegal sponsorship scheme?

A: An employer who engages in an illegal sponsorship by filing an application for an approved employment contract without

the intent or present ability to provide a viable, wage-paying job for a foreign national worker may be barred from further employment of alien workers if, under all the circumstances of the case, debarment is the appropriate remedy.

According to the Regulations, an employer who requires or permits an alien worker to pay an application fee or renewal fee in connection with an existing, viable, wage-paying job may be fined up to \$2,000 and ordered to pay the amount of the fees to the worker in addition to any other remedies if, under all the circumstances of the case, these are the appropriate remedies.

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5 charged with rice price manipulation

By TINA SANTOS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The National Bureau of Investigation Thursday filed charges at the Department of Justice against five suspected members of the “Mosquito Gang,” a group of traders allegedly involved in the manipulation of palay (unmilled rice) prices in Isabela province.

Three of the five suspects were arrested by bureau agents

Wednesday morning in Isabela, according to lawyer Ricardo Diaz, head of the newly formed anti-hoarding task force of the NBI.

Those arrested were Pan Ziqiang, alias Dickson Pua or Dexter Pua; Ting Ting Lee and Zeny Uy.

“This is the first arrest we made since we launched our campaign against hoarders,” Diaz told reporters.

Ziqiang, along with Lita Dy

Pua, both of Lucky Bros. Ricemill in National Highway, Alicia, Isabela, were charged with hoarding, illegal price manipulation, and engaging in the palay business without license.

In a separate case, Lee, Uy and Anna Marie Velasco Chua, all of Barangay San Vicente, Ilagan, Isabela, were charged for allegedly engaging in the business of palay trading without a license from the National Food Authority. Velasco Chua and

Lita Dy Pua are still at large.

The five were also slapped with violations of other provisions of the Revised Rules and Regulations on Grains Business, particularly the lack of a signboard and a record book for warehouse/grains transactions.

The three suspects were arrested following an inspection of their rice mills conducted by the NBI last Wednesday.

Found on the premises of Lucky Bros. Ricemill were

8,200 bags of palay, 3,500 bags of rice and 500 bags of rice bran.

In another operation, the NBI found 76 bags of palay at the ricemill reportedly owned by Chua.

“The rice mill was allegedly operated by Lee and Uy, both Chinese-speaking women, who claimed to be from mainland China but who failed to present their alien certificates of registration,” Diaz said. Lee and Uy

will be turned over to the Bureau of Immigration, he added.

The NBI said the suspects were allegedly involved in hoarding activities, resulting in increased prices of the country’s staple food.

A GMA 7 television report said the gang’s operation involved sending agents to rice fields during the harvest season to buy palay wholesale directly from the farmers. Before, it was the farmers who go to buying

Police warn vs fake P500 bills

By TINA SANTOS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Fake P500 bills are circulating in Manila, police said.

The warning was issued Thursday following the arrest of four people suspected to be members of a counterfeit syndicate during a raid and an entrapment operation in Sta. Cruz and Binondo Wednesday night.

Arrested were Erwin Cabiling, 22; Richard Reyes, 35; and Pacifico Laminato, 48, all residents of Sta. Cruz; and Ricky Chan, 45, of Binondo, Manila.

Seized from the suspects were several fake P500 bills, a laptop computer, scanning equipment, printer and other assorted paraphernalia used to produce fake money, said Supt. Nelson Yabut, chief of the Meisic (Binondo) Police Station.

Except for Cabiling, the suspects had on them several plastic sachets containing metamphetamines hydrochloride or shabu, Yabut said.

Violation

The four were charged with violation of Article 168 of the Revised Penal Code (illegal possession and use of false treasury/

fake Philippine currency). Chan, Reyes and Laminato will also be charged with violation of Republic Act 9165 (Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002).

Police arrested Cabiling first after he used a fake P500 bill to buy metallic rulers from Artemio Agsalud, owner of a general merchandise store in Binondo.

Cabiling later told police he bought the fake bill from Reyes for P150. Authorities launched an entrapment operation and arrested Chan.

Room 304

The law enforcers later proceeded to Room 304 of the Spring Hotel on Rizal Avenue in Sta. Cruz, where the suspects allegedly manufactured the fake bills.

“We have been receiving complaints from vendors at the 168 and Meisic malls that many buyers were paying them with fake P500 bills,” Yabut said. He said the bills were technically “clever” copies.

The police learned that the suspects could produce up to 50 fake P500 bills a day.

Yabut said the suspects used drugs to stay awake while the manufacture of the counterfeit money was underway.

Estrada: Many shortages are caused by ‘Shorty’

By JOCELYN UY
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—He wasn’t on the hustings yet, but Joseph Estrada Thursday took a swipe at President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for all sorts of shortages he said the country was facing.

There’s the short supply of rice and flour, said the deposed President who was convicted of plunder last September and was pardoned and freed by Ms Arroyo six weeks later after six years in detention.

“Higit sa lahat, ang pinakamabigat na shortage ngayon ay ang truth and integrity shortage ... at ang gumagawa ng shortage ay short pa rin (Most of all, the most serious shortage today concerns truth and integrity ... and the person responsible for the shortages is also short,” Estrada said,

referring to the diminutive Ms Arroyo.

Estrada made the statement at the launch by the Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP) at Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan City, of a campaign to collect 1 million signatures by August to persuade Estrada to run for president again in 2010.

Officials of the political party founded by Estrada a decade ago expressed hope that when they succeed in gathering the signatures, the movie actor turned politician will find it in his heart to heed their call.

“I hope you would say ‘yes’ to our aspirations... that you would bring our people out of desperation and hopelessness,” Wainwright Rivera, PMP chairman for Pasig chapter, said when he presented to Estrada the booklet containing more than 82,000 signatures his group had solicited so far.

YouTube video could spell trouble for Cebu doctors

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A video posted on YouTube showing Philippine doctors laughing while removing an object from a patient may lead to charges against the surgeons and cost them their medical licenses, officials said Wednesday.

The unauthorized nearly 3-minute video of a noisy operating room shows doctors and nurses laughing, giggling and cheering.

At one point, a hand appears with a cell phone camera taking a close-up picture of the surgery.

As a doctor gingerly pulls out the 15-centimeter (6-inch) long canister from the male patient’s rectum, someone shouts, “Baby out!” amid loud cheers.

The doctor then removes the canister cap and sprays the contents toward the crowd of nurses and doctors viewing the procedure.

It remains unclear who shot the video and who posted it on YouTube, but the person who posted it removed it from the Web site Wednesday.

The video has angered the unidentified patient who plans to press charges, his lawyer Guiller Ceniza said Wednesday.

The government-run Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center in the central city of Cebu, where the surgery took place, is conducting an

investigation, a spokesman said Wednesday.

Dr. Emmanuel Gines said more than 10 people were involved—including staff and medical and nursing students from a nearby operating room.

He said the hospital takes videos of surgeries of peculiar cases, but only with the consent of the patient.

Dr. Jose Sabili, president of the Philippine Medical Association, told The Associated Press on Wednesday the group will conduct an investigation if a formal complaint is filed and doctors found violating medical ethics could be suspended or expelled from the association, which would result in the suspension or termination of their state health insurance accreditation.

The results of the investigation could also be used by the Professional Regulations Commission to suspend or revoke their licenses, Sabili said.

“I believe what they did was very blatant,” he said.

Health Undersecretary Alexander Padilla said the Health Department will conduct a separate investigation.

The 39-year-old patient received surgery on Jan. 3, three days after a New Year’s drinking spree and a “one-night stand” with a male partner, Ceniza, the lawyer, told the AP.

DoJ: Perez graft case weak after ‘MJ’ backed off

MANILA, Philippines—No less than Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez thinks the Ombudsman would be hard put to pursue a graft case against former Justice Secretary Hernando “Nani” Perez since the original complainant, Mark “MJ” Jimenez, has withdrawn the charges, even as ousted President Joseph Estrada wants the book thrown at Perez for plunder.

Perez, one of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s close political allies, is now a private citizen and is currently a member of the Philippine Orchid Society’s board of directors.

On Wednesday, Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez denied Perez’s motions seeking to dismiss the complaint filed by Jimenez and reverse an earlier resolution ordering Perez’s prosecution.

Gutierrez’s move paves the way for the trial on graft charges in the Sandiganbayan of Perez, his wife Rosario, brother-in-law Ramon Arceo and business associate Ernest Escaler.



ANTI-COAL PROTEST

Environmentalist activists from Greenpeace surround a pile of charcoal after they managed to enter the compound of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and dumped about 200 kilograms in a surprise protest Thursday, April 17, 2008 at Manila’s Quezon city, Philippines. The Greenpeace activists were protesting the government’s plan to build a coal-fired power plant in central Philippines which according to their statement, “coal is one of the leading contributors to climate change.”

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Backyard concerto

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—She actually wanted to take a nap, but since a TV crew was already setting up to tape her birthday special, singer Regine Velasquez headed straight to the kitchen to whip up a home-cooked meal for the 300 or so guests that gathered in her new Quezon City home.

"I got so stressed that I decided to cook; it's therapy for me," she now tells Living Stars.

Since moving in last Nov. 11, Regine, the cook, has mastered dishes as varied as putanesca, risotto and kaldereta.

She says Michelle van Eimmen, boyfriend Ogie Alcasid's ex-wife, shared some recipes with her.

"It's inspiring to cook in my new kitchen," Regine says. "I instantly fell in love with its design when I saw it in a magazine."

She was initially shocked to learn that her Bontempi Casa kitchen showcase had to be ordered and shipped from Italy. "I had to wait five months," she recounts.

(These days, when she goes malling, she says, she is inevitably drawn to the kitchenware section.)

Her state-of-the-art kitchen was put to good use on taping day, April 11.

À la Streisand

The birthday special, titled "The Best of Me," will be aired April 27 on GMA 7. The backyard

concerto is described by neighbor and guest Ai-Ai de las Alas as an "intimate concert à la Barbra Streisand."

"Unlike Barbra though, I don't have a mountain in my backyard," Regine quips.

The home stands on a hill, though, and was designed by architect Anthony Nazareno,



Singer Regine Velasquez hosted a birthday special, titled "The Best of Me," at her new home.

with Cynthia Almario as interior designer.

Regine says the infinity pool was inspired by the Korean soap, "Full House."

"The edge of the pool is glass," she notes.

(Regine is the lead star of the local version of the Koreanovella "Kim Sam Soon." A weekly special, "Songbird," is in the works.)

For the birthday concert, a stage was built on top of the infinity pool, which offers a

breathtaking view of the city and a nearby golf course. "I've always wanted a modern glass house—[so] there's a view from every corner," she points out.

Regine's new home inspires nature-tripping; fittingly, the birthday special has an environment-friendly theme. "My actual birthday (April 22) is Earth Day," she said. "And I'm learning about the environment."

Although she values her privacy, she gladly threw her doors open, she says, since "it was for my birthday and most of the venues considered were booked."

Non-usual lineup

Apart from Ai-Ai, other celebrity guests that night were Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, Kuh Ledesma and daughter Isabella Gonzalez, Michael V, Jaya, Marian Rivera and "Urduja" producer Tony Tuviera.

Onstage, Regine was joined by singers JayR, Kyla and boyfriend Ogie Alcasid.

"Ogie and I sang our favorite, 'Falling Slowly' from the [Irish] movie 'Once.' It won Best Original Song at this year's Oscars," she says.

Most of the 15 songs in the repertoire are very un-Regine, she concedes.

"I sang [Kenny Loggins' dance hit] 'Footloose' and [Josh Groban's Italian ballad] 'Per Te.' These are songs that I don't usually do in my shows," she says. "I wanted to do something different for this one."

Kristine, director don't see eye to eye

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Trouble is brewing on the set of "Prinsesa ng Banyera." Lead star Kristine Hermosa and Direk Andoy Ranay don't see eye to eye.

The series is supposed to air till July but at the rate things are going, the soap may run only up until May, a network insider squealed.

"Kristine cramps the style of Direk. Biglang ayaw na daw niya mag-taping kasi di na daw maganda ang story. She mocks the script before doing her scenes. Direk is so fed up with her kaya kahit blocking ni Kristine assistant director na lang ang nagsasabi. Sayang naman ang taas ng rating ng show," the insider said.

The source added: "There was an emergency meeting. Direk Andoy said that if the series were to be extended for another season, they should count him out na. ABS-CBN bigwigs refuse to let him go because the show is his creation. Direk even wrote na another soap to replace 'Banyera.' That's how desidido he is to give up the show. Sabi niya parang dance daw. Di sila pwede mag-work ni Kristine together kung saliwa ang steps nila. I don't know how they will talk Kristine into changing her ways. Matagal na ang attitude problem niya. Kalat na sa industriya."

Kristine can deny this to high heavens; that's her prerogative as a star. But word gets around. No matter how we try to elude it, truth has an

uncanny way of catching up with us sooner or later.

Long-standing gap

Guess who this young actress is who broke down during an acting workshop. After internalizing, she blurted out, "Why do I have a mother like her?" The facilitator was stunned to find out that mother and daughter had a long-standing gap. It turns out that the mom is so insecure of her hija's success.

They live under one roof but communicate via e-mail most of the time. "Mommie Dear," Pinoy version?

Envious of co-stars

Guess who this other young actress is who's envious of two actresses (from the same network) who are allowed to choose their projects and co-stars. The director she was whining to gave her a wake-up call: "Hello! Those two actresses have acting awards already. Maki-level ba?"

Collect and select! Y.A. ought to know that she must collect accolades first before she can select her projects.

Finding Prince Charming

Does Lea Salonga still believe in fairy tales?

"Happy ever after doesn't exist," she says. "After meeting and marrying Prince Charming, there's still a lot of work to be done to keep the relationship going smoothly."

The Tony award-winning actress was speaking her mind in connection with her forthcoming appearance in the stage version of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical adaptation

of "Cinderella"—produced by Broadway Asia Entertainment and which runs from July 29 to Aug. 24 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

What's her definition of a "Prince Charming?"

"Someone who sweeps you off your feet, lives in a castle and will take care of you," she muses. "My own prince did just about everything except for the castle part. We did that together."

What challenges her most in portraying Cinderella?

"She is such a well-known fairy tale character. Everyone in the audience is going to have preconceived notions of who and what she is. My job will be to find something I can relate to in that character, as well as inject as much humor as I can without it being ridiculous," Lea says.

She adds, "I have to find out why she's able to keep a relatively sunny disposition, in spite of her living situation. The other challenge will be to stand tall beside my leading man (Peter Saide) who's 6'4'. Wow!"

No doubt Lea will be standing proud with or without the glass slipper. Whatever the role, she wears it so well.

Different tunes

Sunshine Cruz couldn't hold back her tears when she was asked to give hubby Cesar Montano a message in "Boy & Kris" (episode airs Wednesday, April 16, 10:30 a.m., ABS-CBN). In her past interviews, Sunshine said Buboy is courting her again. Now she's singing a different tune.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Travel now, pay later

Question: I came across offers from my credit card company for travel packages, which are perfect summer destinations. The offer does not only promise discounted prices, but also a fly now, pay later option. I'm not comfortable taking on credit for "want" items, but I have to admit this is hard to resist. And at 0 percent installment plan, I am truly hooked. Take it, or take it?—Albert C.

Answer: There is some truth to the old proverb, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." Most of us do need to work to earn a living to live our lives well, but if we all turn workaholic and just live to work, there won't be much sense to life. Time and again, scientists and medical practitioners have also cautioned us on the perils of working too hard: We'll be stressed, and this will

affect our health, our relationships, and even our character.

So a wise person will work hard during the week, but make time for leisure at the end of the weekday or on weekends. Such times are used for me-time, or for bonding with family and friends.

After-work hours and weekends are not enough, though, so vacations are necessary to one's sanity. There is nothing like being in a new place, away from work deadlines and other responsibilities, where you can recharge and come back to work refreshed and ready to tackle all that's needed.

You don't need to go abroad for a vacation. Even short vacations in nearby provinces can do wonders to your health and mindset. Some families even check in at a hotel for the weekend within the city just to get away from their everyday surroundings.

Given all these, we advise you to consider availing of the Fly Now, Pay Later offer being made to you. True, a vacation is not as basic a need as food, but it is a need nonetheless.

Here are some tips for you:

1. BOOK EARLY.

It's mid-summer, and most people would like to head out of town, if they haven't done so already. Pick a vacation spot you and your family will enjoy then book flights and hotel rooms as soon as possible. This will make sure you'll still have a summer getaway in comfort. Find out too, if the airline and hotel you're looking at will give added points for your credit card company's rewards program. Extra points will mean extra rewards later on. Plus, paying with a credit card may entitle you to free travel insurance.

2. COMPARE COSTS.

Not only should you compare hotel room rates and air fares; compare costs between

destinations as well. For instance, there may not be much difference between traveling to Hong Kong or Macau and traveling to Palawan and Davao. The weak US dollar has made reasonable travel packages abroad possible.

3. BUDGET THE MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS.

The Travel Now, Pay Later scheme is an installment plan which you should treat in the same way you would treat an appliance purchase. Find out how much the monthly installments for your vacation would be, then calendar it in your budget and planner. This scheme is easy on the pocket, enabling you to enjoy a big-ticket item (your vacation) without taxing your bank account.

4. DON'T FORGET TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS.

Transfers between airport to hotel and vice versa may be ar-

ranged beforehand; so do city guided tours. Take advantage of these offers as these will enhance your travel experience.

5. CHARGE ONLY WHAT YOU CAN AFFORD TO PAY.

Just because you can use your credit card for the Travel Now, Pay Later scheme doesn't mean you should get the most expensive travel package offered. Take only what you can afford to pay in the next three or six months (depending on the terms of the scheme). Don't be saddled with debt with the vacation of your dreams. That will come in later in life, when you can afford to do so.

In relation to the last tip, we'd like to remind you of an important thing you should save up for: your emergency fund and retirement fund. Every month, set aside a fixed amount of money for an emergency fund which should tide you over six months should anything happen to you or your family (such as a

job loss or critical illness). This is an absolute necessity. Also start shoring up money for your retirement as doing so this early will help your fund grow faster through compound interest.

While you do make time and set aside money for a vacation every year, make it a habit to build up your emergency and retirement funds regularly as well. Strike a balance between what's necessary (saving for your nest egg) and what's recharging (enjoying life).

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Maharlika – Opinyon

Social volcano

In the past 22 years, only two social volcano eruptions took place in the Philippines on a scale that toppled ruling regimes, the first in February 1986 and then in January 2001. Both EDSA People Power I and II were not violent risings. They involved mass participation in street protest movements. None was ignited by hunger or high food prices.

Last week, World Bank president Robert Zoelick warned that 33 nations around the globe were at risk of social unrest, with riots breaking out in Africa, Indonesia and Bangladesh in food lines formed by the hungry poor. In Haiti, the government of Prime Minister Jacques Edouard Alexis fell after rioting erupted over food prices. Parliament dismissed his government for its failure to respond to arrest rising food prices in a country of 8.5 million people, 80 percent of whom live on less than \$2 day. Rice prices had doubled to \$70 for a 50-kilogram bag, and by \$8 (15 percent) in a few weeks.

The violence in the food lines highlights the changed dynamic and social environment in which these recent social explosions took place. The dynamic is defined by the fact that violence and civil disorder were directly provoked by food shortages and food prices. A number of the social explosions that toppled regimes and ideologically structured social and political systems since the 1980s were driven by middle-class constituencies, not by the distress of the poor.

There were no mass movements involved in the violent explosions over prices. Food prices hit the bottom line of human endurance to suffering because of empty stomachs. The fuse leading to the stomach is short and burns swiftly.

The explosions in Egypt, Burkina Faso in West Africa, Haiti, Indonesia and Pakistan were spontaneous outbursts from the poor. The hungry did not require professional agitators to drive them to the streets.

The security forces, armed with high-tech weapons of mass dispersal, have no answer to these violent flare-ups of the poor. They cannot use the traditional response of launching witch hunts for political and ideological “enemies of the state.” They can’t find these enemies in the hungry stomachs of the poor. If the riot police counter mob violence with state violence, it could only make things worse. The hungry poor would be left with no choice but to die in the food lines. The inevitable result of this hard-line approach is

carnage in the streets that could provoke mass outrage and send the noisy and opportunistic, risk-averse middle class to the streets in huge numbers.

This new element of the spontaneous revolt of the poor against food prices is what makes the current food price crisis far more dangerous to political stability and regime survival than People Power-like, nonviolent mass movements. We can’t realistically expect another People Power uprising to extricate us from the danger of a social explosion triggered by unrest on the food lines of the poor.

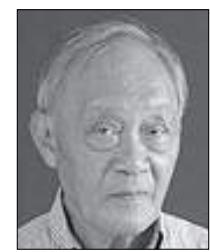
The ground rules on civil unrest have radically changed, despite our tendency to opt for non-confrontational action, such as mass civil disobedience. This time, food prices have erased the People Power solution. The People Power formula is passé, irrelevant as a

This new element of the spontaneous revolt of the poor against food prices is what makes the current food price crisis far more dangerous to political stability and regime survival than People Power-like, nonviolent mass movements.

shield to avert the rebellion of the muted poor. The hungry poor are rewriting in their own honest way the rules of social explosion.

The government can’t seek comfort in the fact that it is a fortress surrounded by a high-tech military led by sycophantic generals more concerned about their career security than about the success of measures undertaken so far by civilian authorities to ensure adequate rice supplies, at least during the coming lean months and to keep food prices down to avert a violent explosion in the food lines. Some high administration officials seek solace in the record that the country has been spared food riots during rice crises of the past. The ground is seeded with ingredients pre-disposing it to

ANALYSIS
By AMANDO DORONILA
Philippine Daily Inquirer



violent explosions.

This government is ill-prepared to avert such a social explosion. It is in fact sitting on the crater of a social volcano. Food price inflation has led to worsening poverty incidence in the country. According to the National Statistics Coordination Board, poverty incidence worsened to 33 percent of the population in 2006 from 30 percent in 2003. “Inflation is one reason why some people fall below the poverty line,” according to acting Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Augusto Santos.

Government economists have reported to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that inflation has risen beyond 5.0 percent since February. The National Statistics Office reported that inflation accelerated to 6.4 percent in March, from 5.4 percent in February and 4.9 percent in January. Santos said the economists’ study showed that inflation would soon reach 8.0 percent, beyond the official assumption of 3.0-5.0 percent for 2008. This swift inflation increase has prompted the government to review the gross domestic product target of 6.3-7.0 percent this year. What is more of concern to the administration is not meeting the target but the immediate impact of inflation which might send the poor rioting in the streets.

A study by the International Monetary Fund shows that Filipino households belonging to the lowest 10 percent in terms of spending capability use 64.8 percent of their income to buy food. Inflation is their worst enemy, as it is government’s nemesis. This group comprises the poorest of the poor, the bulk of the consumers of the subsidized rice from the National Food Authority (NFA).

It is in the NFA food lines where the social volcano is sighted. It is in these rice lines where the volcano is likely to explode. It is the social tinder box.

Food poor

I cannot help but wonder what kind of information is being fed to our people, either by our government or by those who influence most of the world. Just five weeks ago nobody was talking about a rice crisis, and certainly not about a food crisis. Today there are even suggestions of emergency powers for the President because of the situation on rice and food.

When rice was being imported for just over \$200 a metric ton and it had risen to \$300 a ton, Filipinos knew nothing about it. When rice was being tendered and bought at \$700 a ton, a fact that government officials knew and were monitoring all the while, the \$300-per-ton import price was still finding its way to the news, from statements attributed to government officials.

Keeping bad news from a population that is deemed unfriendly to its own president can help that president from being more disliked, but will quickly shock and anger an unsuspecting people.

Maybe the time lag between public ignorance and knowledge was used to plan and roll out the necessary propaganda to mitigate adverse public reaction.

It is not bad of Gloria to spare the people undue apprehension, which could turn to panic and artificially high prices. Good PR is something public officials strive for in the belief that a secure and happy people are also among the most productive and progressive.

Good PR, however, is not the justification for false, misleading or untruthful information; worse, it cannot be a license for stupidity.

Food does not disappear in a day, or in a few weeks, unless a natural catastrophe like a giant tidal wave or a global earthquake hits a substantial part of food producing areas. Our crisis, including the rapidly rising prices of rice that triggered a tightening of supply, was not born in a day. But because the build up toward a negative situation was hidden by an insecure administration from the people’s views, we have an instant price and supply crisis shocking us today.

It does not help raise our confidence levels when senior government officials step over one another to show off their suggestions on how to deal with a crisis situation. Those who have not studied enough of public psyche and the principles of human behavior see the surface but miss the subliminal. In a crisis, the subliminal is very critical; it can set the direction for an eruptive collective behavior, for or against government. Gloria and her team try not to aggravate the fears of people but their aggressive efforts to mitigate reveal the depth of a problem that is not yet fully explained, fully understood, but already acutely felt.

Too rosy a picture has been painted of the Philippines under the watch of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo by her own sycophants. Perhaps, all they wanted to achieve was a balance between the bad news that often recognizes no other. But a crucial truth that should not be hidden is the poverty which engulfs a homeland so naturally blessed by creation in her fertility, her mineral wealth, and her outstandingly talented children.

Poverty is a national shame; it is the most obvious and ugly by-product of an even worse national shame: corruption. If we hide our shame, then we cannot begin to atone for it, and to confront it together as one people.

Gloria did not create poverty; she also did not create corruption. Her shame is that both poverty and corruption define her administration at the expense of her real achievements. Her greater shame when legacy time is upon her is that the poverty and the corruption she did not create worsened during her watch. Already, there are speculations that she will surely make it to the list of the most corrupt and be the third Filipino president to make it there.

Whatever she may be, whether we believe she is greedy or not, whether her greed is moderated or not, Gloria must want to be seen positively by her people, maybe even loved by them. While it is not yet proven that she has plundered, looted or murdered, as she has been accused of all these, then there is time for her to confront her weakest areas. It is not enough that she can bring the growth rate up; she has to bring poverty and corruption down.

Gloria has no rancor with the general public except maybe a hurt over why more of them do not like her after all she may think she has done for them. She has no reason to be vindictive toward them, especially the poor and the innocent, unlike what she has shown she is capable of toward her enemies. If she takes on the grand mission of lifting them out of their poverty, she can turn the tide more quickly than most realize. After all, the poor have not paid particular attention to the corruption that Gloria has been accused of; for too long, they have judged that the rich and the powerful are guilty of the same crime.

There are millions of Filipinos who are going hungry every so often but threatened everyday. They are part of what is called “food poor,” Filipinos who do not earn enough consistently to afford their minimum food needs. Because many are very concerned about the hunger that threatens millions of poor Filipinos, Gloria can take advantage of the present situation and mobilize business, civil society,

GLIMPSES
By JOSE MA. MONTELIBANO
INQUIRER.net



Responses may be sent to jlmglimpse@gmail.com.

schools and churches to join government in one honest-to-goodness intervention against the threat of hunger in particular and the threat of poverty in general. Even if many do not like her, their concern for fellow Filipinos in a time of great need will spur them to action—with or without Gloria.

Along the way, Gloria must see to it that corruption is visibly countered by a political will to dismantle it. Along the way, too, she may want to tell her most ardent underlings to be more sensitive about their remarks about rice and food at this time. They cannot talk of less rice consumption and the shift to more vegetables and other more nutritious food when the poor do not even have enough money for just rice and “bagoong” [salted shrimp paste], or rice and instant noodles. The “food poor” do not have many options except eat if there is food and don’t eat if there is none. And when there is a price crisis, there is automatically a food crisis for the poor. Those who do not understand this should be kept away from public view.

Working with churches as distributors of subsidized rice is a good initial move. Many operational problems will pop up along the way, especially in many areas where the priests and bishops have not been lending their presence to the poor. Government passed on the greater work, and the greater blame, by using the religious as buffer to expected public frustration over their inability to pay for the food they need. It is good for government but can be a slippery path for church people who have long been unable to retain a connection with the least among us.

Meanwhile, it is not for us to stay in a critical mode if such an attitude prevents us from reaching out to ease the fear and hunger of the poor. We are people of God first and foremost, Filipinos who are brother or sister to all Filipinos and must look out for the weakest among us. In the context of clear and present danger, our obligation is clear—we are our brothers’ keepers.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari



FEDERALIZATION LUNCH PARTY JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A U.S. flag is displayed while Human Dignity Movement officials, members and supporters gather at a pavilion in Beach Road Garapan for a federalization potluck luncheon party Sunday afternoon.



REDCROSS WALK-A-THON

The friendly staff of Marianas Health Services Inc. gather for a photo at their booth during the 22nd Annual American Red Cross Walk-A-Thon at the 4H Building in Susupe Saturday morning.



REDCROSS WALK-A-THON

Edgar, Jackie, Aileen, Jojo, Arlene, Matthew at the Coca Cola Foremost product sampling booth during the 22nd Annual American Red Cross Walk-A-Thon at the 4H Building in Susupe Saturday morning.



NMC CREEES OPEN HOUSE

NMC-CREES Livestock Program Extension specialist Dr. Allan Sabaldica, NMC-CREES staff Alejandro Badilles and Alfred Paras gather for a photo during the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service 3rd annual open house at the NMC on As Terlaje Campus.



REDCROSS WALK-A-THON

MDX Amateur Radio Club's Herleine Mirasol, Ed Reyes, Bong Mala-sarte and Jay Diyco during the 22nd Annual American Red Cross Walk-A-Thon.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Tess Mercader, Romel Espinoza, Meann Francisco and Conrad Sablan enjoy the night at the Pacific Islands Club Seaside Grill.



NMC CREEES OPEN HOUSE

NMC-CREES staff Alfred Paras arranges the tomato seedling during the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service 3rd annual open house at the NMC on As Terlaje Campus.



POLO GRADUATES

Graduates of the Basic Computer Operations Course Batch 42 pose with instructor Cris Hilario and Philippine Consulate General officials during their graduation at POLO last April 13, 2008.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Instructor Jaime Vergara gives an inspiring message during the graduation ceremony of the Advanced English class.



Graduates of the Advanced English Batch 2 have their picture taken with instructor Jaime Vergara and Philippine Consulate General officials during their graduation at POLO on April 5, 2008.

Youngstyle

Know your devil



(c) 2008, The Washington Post

The Tasmanian devil is the largest carnivorous (meat-eating) marsupial; it is about the size of a small dog. Its spine-chilling screeches, fierce look and reputed bad temper led early European settlers to call it The Devil.

Tasmanian devils eat up to 40 percent of their body weight per meal every two or three days. They eat just about anything, but prefer carrion (dead meat that they find). A typical diet includes wallabies, kangaroos, wombats, lizards, snakes, frogs, birds, crayfish and eggs. Devils roam nearly 10 miles a night in search of food. A good sense of smell allows them to detect food nearly a mile away.

Devils are nocturnal (active only at night). During the day they sleep in burrows.

See KNOW on Next Page



Researchers in Tasmania, a large island state off the southeast coast of Australia, are studying animals with the beginning stages of devil facial tumor disease (below) and healthy Tasmanian devils (above), hoping to find a cure.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Tasmania's wild critters affected by facial cancer

ON THE NET

To learn more, go to www.tassiedevil.com.au. And to hear what a Tasmanian devil sounds like, go to www.parks.tas.gov.au/wildlife/mammals/devil.html.

By BRENNA MALONEY

(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

It looks like a small, stocky dog with a bear's head. It prefers to find dead animals to eat. It shrieks like a fiend, and its ears turn deep purple when it is agitated. And right now this strange little beast is in trouble—serious trouble.

The Tasmanian devil is facing extinction because a contagious cancer unique to devils is sweeping over Tasmania, a large island state off the southeast coast of Australia and the only place where these marsupials live in the wild.

See TASMANIA'S on Next Page

Land of the Devils

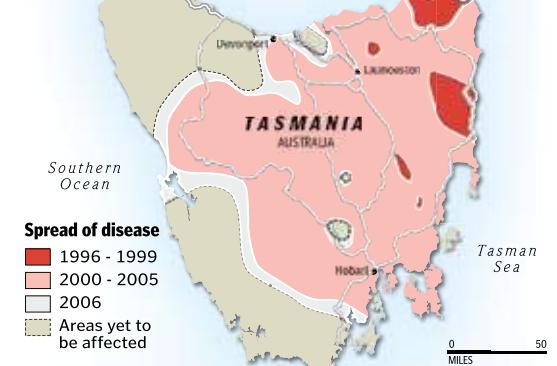
The Tasmanian devil faces extinction in the next 15 years if nothing can be done to stop the spread of devil facial tumor disease. The cancer has traveled across much of Tasmania, the only place where devils live in the wild.



Bass Strait

Disease first detected at Mount William National Park in 1996.

Flinders Island



MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

We, the family of the Late

*+Gregoria Camacho
Cabrala*



wish to extend our sincere gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to all our family and friends who supported us during the nightly rosaries, wake and vigil services and especially during the Eucharistic Celebration.

Words cannot express our deepest and profound gratitude for all the kindness, generosity and prayers extended to our family.

God Bless You All!

Jesse John, Ignatia Marie, Children and Family



What's it like to be in space? A former astronaut tells all

By BRENNNA MALONEY
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Were you afraid?

Don Thomas, a four-time space shuttle astronaut, gets asked that a lot. Also: What does liftoff feel like? What happens if you get sick in space? And: Seen any aliens?

"I usually say that I (was) 25 percent scared out of my mind," admits Thomas. "It's like going on a roller coaster: You get on that thing and you are scared and excited."

Thomas answered those and other questions recently in an appearance at Towson University in Maryland. The former astronaut directs a program there that encourages kids to study



Don Thomas logged 44 days and more than 20 million miles in space on his four missions, one on Discovery (1994) and three on the shuttle Columbia (1995 and 1997). Each mission required as much as two years of preparation. From left, his mission patches from 1994, 1995 and two from 1997.

TASMANIA'S

From Page 17

Discovered in 1996, devil facial tumor disease causes painful tumors to grow around the mouths and heads of the devils. Once the cancer becomes visible, death follows in six to 12 months.

As much as half the wild devil population, which once numbered 160,000, might have been affected so far. As of now, there is no vaccine or other cure.

"They're in a pretty bad way," says Elizabeth Murchison, an Australian cancer researcher at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New

York. "It would be so, so sad if devils disappeared. It's motivating us (researchers) to work really hard" to find a treatment.

Unlike most cancers, DFTD is contagious. The disease is passed through biting.

Once bitten by an infected devil, a healthy animal's immune system doesn't work properly, so the cancer grows, explains Hamish McCallum, who heads the DFTD program at the University of Tasmania.

"To encounter (diseased) devils in the wild is really quite distressing," says Murchison. "They have a bad reputation because they make such a ghastly sound, but they are

math and science.

Thomas logged 44 days and more than 20 million miles in space on his four missions — three on the shuttle Columbia, one on Discovery — in the mid-1990s. Each mission required as much as two years of preparation, but Thomas says that nothing quite prepares you for launch. It's the "roughest" phase, he says. "There's a lot of vibration. You're sitting on half a million gallons of highly explosive fuel. So many things can go wrong."

For the 53-year-old Thomas, the path to becoming an astronaut was clear but not easy. "I was in kindergarten when the first American went up: May 5, 1961, Alan Shepard on top of a Redstone rocket."

Thomas remembers kids watching the historic moment on a black-and-white TV in the school cafeteria. "That event had a huge impact on my life. I was 6 years old. I don't know anything, but I (know I) want to do that."

He adds, "Statistically speaking, I shouldn't have made it" as an astronaut. He grew up in a lower-middle-class, single-parent household, but "I had the drive" to succeed.

Astronaut Don Thomas corrals printouts of messages from ground controllers on his next-to-last mission aboard the space shuttle Columbia in April 1997.

THE WASHINGTON POST



Former astronaut Don Thomas autographs shuttle books after his talk at Towson University in Maryland.

Thomas applied to be an astronaut four times. How did he finally get chosen? "It's a bit of a mystery," he says with a laugh.

So how does it feel to be in space?

About a third of astronauts experience space motion sickness. "Some of them are puking their guts out, and that may last a few days," Thomas says. On his first mission, his stomach was shaky the first day so he didn't eat much. The next day he felt fine.

Most astronauts adjust well, he says, and enjoy being weightless: "You can do somersaults and flip around. Almost every astronaut will put their sleeping bag on the ceiling and sleep up there, just so they can tell their friends back at home."

Missions last about two weeks, and astronauts are busy every wak-



Don Thomas, a four-time space shuttle astronaut, directs a program at Towson University in Maryland that encourages kids to study math and science; he logged 44 days and more than 20 million miles in space on his four missions in the mid-1990s.

ing moment, Thomas says. "You have so many demands on you, you're very focused."

So focused, in fact, that it's possible to miss the big picture: "One of my jobs on my first flight, after launch, was to get out of my seat and take pictures of the huge orange fuel tank as it falls away. So I get out of my seat, grab the camera and take pictures."

have been moved to zoos and wildlife parks, mostly in Australia. The aim is to protect healthy devils until the disease can be stopped.

"I remain hopeful we can save the devils," McCallum says. "The one ray of light" comes from western Tasmania, where the disease has not reached and where the genetic makeup of the devils is slightly different from those living in the east.

"If these differences are big enough to make them resistant to the disease," he says, "we may be able to breed resistant devils from them."

"It's very important that we save the devil," Murchison says, "because it is such a special, special animal."

But Thomas says he didn't really see what he was looking at until he put the camera down. "It's tank, tank, tank, wow! That's the Earth there! My God, how beautiful."

The pull of Earth's gravity is a reminder that the mission is ending. "You start hitting the atmosphere at 1 1/2 times the force of gravity — which doesn't sound like much, but when you are used to floating, you feel really heavy."

Oh, and about those aliens? "I've seen things that are really weird" in space, Thomas admits. But no aliens.

KNOW

From Page 17

Body characteristics: large head; powerful, bone-crunching jaws; short, stocky body; hairy 10-inch-long tail; black fur with white markings on the neck, shoulders and rump; long claws used for digging and to grasp prey; wiry whiskers that extend to the shoulders, acting as sensors during night movement, feeding and communication.

Life & Style

World's most astonishing building turns 50

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)

—Belgium on Thursday celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Atomium, an oddity of modern architecture touted as the “most astonishing building in the world.”

Built for the 1958 World’s Fair in Brussels, the Atomium is a towering structure made up of nine giant aluminum-clad spheres linked with steel tubes. The sci-fi design represents an iron atom magnified 165 billion times.

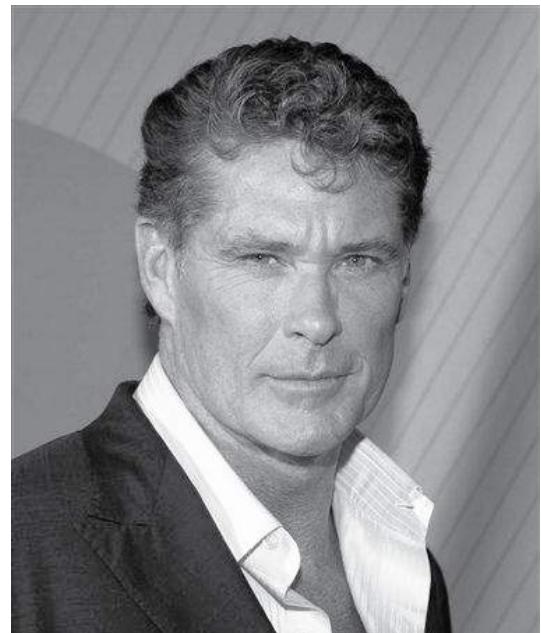
Originally planned as a temporary attraction, it became one of the best-known landmarks of the Belgium capital.

Belgium is marking the anniversary with fireworks, concerts, exhibitions and special showings of classic movies of the late 1950s including Alfred Hitchcock’s “Vertigo” and Jean-Luc Godard’s “Breathless.”

The World’s Fair was the hot ticket of 1958, attracting 42 million visitors over six months, including President Dwight D. Eisenhower and France’s Gen. Charles de Gaulle along with movie stars Sophia Loren, Jane Mansfield and Audrey Hepburn.



Hasselhoff to pay \$25K monthly alimony



LOS ANGELES (AP)—David Hasselhoff has agreed to pay \$25,000 a month to support his ex-wife and children. Court documents released Thursday show the former “Baywatch” star’s divorce settlement calls for him to pay \$21,000 a month to ex-wife Pamela Bach and another \$4,000 to support their daughters, 17-year-old Taylor and 15-year-old Hayley.

Hasselhoff and Bach have joint custody of the children.

The couple also agreed to joint ownership of their San Fernando valley home and will divide the family’s cars, bank accounts and Hasselhoff’s pensions from acting and directing guilds.

Bach and Hasselhoff divorced in 2006 after more than 16 years of marriage.

In this July 17, 2007 file photo, actor David Hasselhoff attends the NBC All-Star Party in Beverly Hills, Calif. AP

By the end of the century, the Atomium had fallen on hard times. Visitor numbers fell to just 120,000 in 2000. The building bounced back in 2006. After a two-year, \$43 million facelift, it attracted 1 million visitors in 18 months.

The Atomium now contains a permanent exhibition of the 1950s, temporary art shows and a gourmet restaurant 335-feet up in the highest sphere, offering spectacular views along with local delicacies such as Ostend oysters and Mechelen cuckoo.

People walk around the Atomium in Brussels, Thursday April 17, 2008. The Atomium, built originally for the World Fair in 1958 and then completely renovated in 2003, celebrated its 50th anniversary on Thursday. AP

Britney to pay lawyers at least \$372,500

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A court commissioner on Thursday authorized various lawyers representing Britney Spears and her family to be paid more than \$372,500 out of Spears’ funds.

Commissioner Reva Goetz ordered the attorneys paid from Spears’ assets, which are under the control of her father, James Spears, and attorney Andrew Wallet. They have had control of the pop star’s finances and estate since she was hospitalized twice in January.

Goetz scheduled the next conservatorship hearing for May 29.



E Street Band member Danny Federici dies at 58

NEW YORK (AP)—Danny Federici, the longtime keyboard player for Bruce Springsteen whose stylish work helped define the E Street Band’s sound on hits from “Hungry Heart” through “The Rising,” died Thursday. He was 58.

Federici, who had battled melanoma for three years, died at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. News of his death was posted late Thursday on Springsteen’s official Web site.

He last performed with Springsteen and the band last month, appearing during portions of a March 20 show in Indianapolis.

“Danny and I worked together for 40 years — he was the most wonderfully fluid keyboard

player and a pure natural musician. I loved him very much ... we grew up together,” Springsteen said in a statement posted on his Web site.

Springsteen concerts scheduled for Friday in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Saturday in Orlando were postponed.

Federici was born in Flemington, N.J., a long car ride from the Jersey shore haunts where he first met kindred musical spirit Springsteen in the late 1960s. The pair often jammed at the Upstage Club in Asbury Park, N.J., a now-defunct after-hours club that hosted the best musicians in the state.

It was Federici, along with original E Street Band drummer Vini Lopez, who first invited Springsteen to join their band.

By 1969, the self-effacing

Federici — often introduced in concert by Springsteen as “Phantom Dan” — was playing with the Boss in a band called Child. Over the years, Federici joined his friend in acclaimed shore bands Steel Mill, Dr. Zoom and the Sonic Boom and the Bruce Springsteen Band.

Federici became a stalwart in the E Street Band as Springsteen rocketed from the boardwalk to international stardom. Springsteen split from the E Streeters in the late ‘80s, but they reunited for a hugely successful tour in 1999.

“Bruce has been supportive throughout my life,” Federici said in a recent interview with Backstreets magazine. “I’ve had my ups and downs, and I’ve certainly given him a run for his money, and he’s always been

there for me.”

Federici played accordion on the wistful “4th Of July, Asbury Park (Sandy)” from Springsteen’s second album, and his organ solo was a highlight of Springsteen’s first top 10 hit, “Hungry Heart.” His organ coda on the 9/11-inspired Springsteen song “You’re Missing” provided one of the more heart-wrenching moments on “The Rising” in 2002.

In a band with larger-than-life characters such as saxophonist Clarence Clemons and bandana-wrapped guitarist “Little” Steven Van Zandt, Federici was content to play in his familiar position to the side of the stage. But his playing was as vital to Springsteen’s live show as any instrument in the band.

Sisters sharing room must stop playing the blame game

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My parents recently divorced. My sister and I live with our mother. Mom and Dad had to sell our three-bedroom home in the divorce settlement. Even though Dad pays child support, money is tight and Mom can only afford a two-bedroom apartment. This means my sister and I have to share a room after always having our own rooms.

My sister and I have never gotten along well. When we had our own rooms we could just keep away from each other, so we didn’t fight that much. However, now that we’re in the same room, we can’t avoid each other and we constantly argue. It looks to me like she is most of the problem. She always has to have her way and won’t compromise. She insists that I’m the problem.

Because we will be sharing a room for the foreseeable future whether we like it or not, can you suggest a way we can live together peacefully in the same room?

—OREGON SIS



Dear Abby

DEAR SIS: It’s time you and your sister stopped blaming each other and realized that when objects rub together it creates friction. If you are going to successfully coexist, you will have to recognize and respect each other’s space—regardless of how limited it is. If necessary, divide the room in such a way that you can each have some privacy when you need it. The arrangement may not be pretty, but it could help your relationship.

DEAR ABBY: I work as a cashier in a small grocery store. Many of our regular customers are elderly and live on fixed incomes. Occasionally, I will help customers out to their cars with their groceries, and when I do I am often offered a tip.

My co-workers say it is rude to refuse a tip when someone offers one. I feel what I am doing is part of my job, and I am already compensated for it. Would it be rude to say, “No thank you?”

—CURIOS CASHIER, KINGSTON, TENN.

DEAR CURIOUS: It is not “rude” to refuse a tip if you do it with a smile, say that you were glad to help the person, and explain—as you did in your letter—that you feel what you did is part of your job and you are already compensated for it. (It is also not rude to ask that person to mention it to your boss. With your exemplary attitude you should make assistant manager in no time.)

DEAR ABBY: Our friend, “Marie,” a cook at a local restaurant, thinks nothing of eating off our plates. Not only does she eat from our plates when we dine in the establishment she works in, but also if we go out to another restaurant together. We have asked her to stop. Please help!

—PICKED OVER IN NEW ENGLAND

DEAR PICKED OVER: Because your friend seems unable to respect the boundaries you’re trying to set, it’s time to become proactive. The next time you’re eating in Marie’s presence, offer her a taste. Then put a small portion on your butter plate or saucer—and HAND it to her.

TO MY JEWISH READERS: It’s time to hide the matzoh—Passover begins at sundown. Happy Passover, everyone!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two books: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Cookbook Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

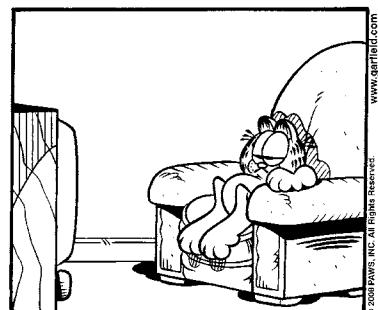
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



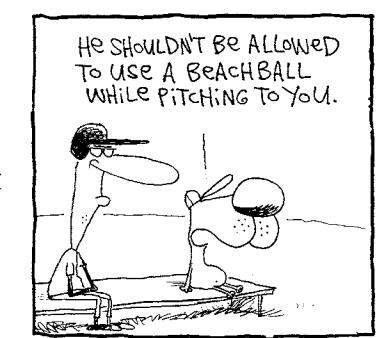
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

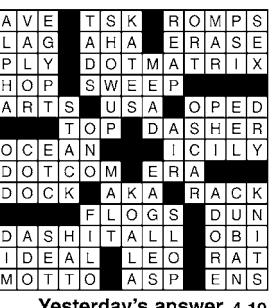


By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	35 Honey-	52 R.L.S.	11 Sawbucks
1 Computer key	comb	villain	19 Challenge
4 Has a bug	compart-	53 Greek vowel	20 Succor
8 Wonder-	ments	23 Frat party need	24 Aye undoer
ful,	36 Scull tool	25 Doctrine	26 Wiretap
in rap slang	37 "Caught ya!"	27 Wire measure	28 Conger
12 Excessively	38 Books, maga-	29 Driller's deg.	30 Supply
13 Glaswe-	zines, etc.	31 Imogene of comedy	32 It may be included in the rent
gian, e.g.	45 Surrounded by	34 "Bali —"	35 Sliding dance step
14 Auditioner's hope	46 Enrages	35 Ticked off	36 Not so typical
15 Lob path	47 Rooter's yell	3 Imogene of infraction	37 "FoxTrot" cartoonist
16 Yearn	48 "The Immortalist"	4 Have high hopes	38 Alger's "before"
17 Fairy tale preposition	author	5 Hockey infraction	39 Send forth
18 Former ingenues, maybe	49 Without	6 Yearn	40 Verdi opera
21 Work unit	50 Exploit	7 Outstanding	41 CSA shade
22 Tall tale	51 Constellation	8 Overly modest one	42 Authentic
23 Piece of cutlery	compo-	9 Arizona tribe	43 Right on the map
26 Awful	nent	10 Lotion additive	44 Comical Caroline
27 Not sml. or lge.			
30 Uncomplicated			
31 Bear hair			
32 Skedaddled			
33 Phys ed			
34 Embrace			



Yesterday's answer 4-19

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For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5951 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features Service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Hayden Christensen, 27; Kate Hudson, 29; Ashley Judd, 40; Tim Curry, 62

Happy Birthday: Love, romance and personal life changes should all be up for grabs this year. Don't procrastinate about the things you know you must do to get your life moving in a positive and loving direction. Sitting on the fence will not bring the results you need in your life. Get on with things before you miss out on something or someone really excellent for you. Your numbers are 4, 16, 20, 26, 35, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't take anything or anyone for granted today. Play fair and do your share in order to prove how valuable you are. An emotional relationship may come to a head. ☀️☀️

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Volunteer your services and you will meet someone who can help you out or to whom you are attracted. This is a great day to put yourself and your talents to the test. A challenge will show your ability to take on leadership tasks. ☀️☀️

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You've got some great ideas and, although not everyone will share your vision, proceed passionately until you reach your goal. It will be the end result that will catch the attention of someone influential. Love is in the stars. ☀️☀️☀️

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be aware of other people's feelings. Someone you care about will be jealous or upset with what you are doing if they feel threatened by someone you are working with. Get approval before you begin something new. ☀️

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Handle others with kid gloves. If you are too pushy or aggressive, expect to be treated

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take a chance and you will succeed. It's hesitation that will stand in your way or will put your timing off. Actions will be key to your survival and your advancement. Show others what you have to offer. ☀️☀️☀️

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You have too many things going on in your life to let the little things bother you. Anger will lead to nothing but trouble and slow down the process of getting to where you want to go. Embrace the future with optimism. ☀️☀️

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Have some fun and enjoy your friends, family or your lover. You don't have to spend a lot—just surround yourself with the people you like. A good time can be had and a professional change can be made. ☀️☀️

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't leave things undone that should be cleared up or it will play on your mind and stop you from getting to what you really should be doing. Taking care of paperwork will help you feel better about your future and your financial security. Forge ahead. ☀️☀️

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't fool yourself into thinking that everyone will do things your way if left to their own devices. Stay on top of what needs attention. A good connection will develop with someone you meet at a function you attend. ☀️☀️☀️

BIRTHDAY BABY: You are changeable, creative and conscientious. You are loving, emotional and passionate about your beliefs, friendships and interests. You are serious-minded and progressive.

the same way. Heated discussions about the way you see things unfolding will end in a winning situation. Don't take chances. ☺

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will have some brilliant ideas that can lead to profits. Someone will try to take something over if you aren't determined to do things on your own. An old romantic connection may make you rethink your present situation. ☀️☀️☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A secret dealing may leave you on edge. You can persuade someone you like to spend more time with you, leading to a greater understanding of how you feel and what you want out of the relationship. Ask questions. ☀️☀️

BIRTHDAY BABY: You are changeable, creative and conscientious. You are loving, emotional and passionate about your beliefs, friendships and interests. You are serious-minded and progressive.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY
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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	4	9		1	3				
6		4				9			
3			9	8	7		6		
	6		3						
7	6		5			2			
5			7			3			
	1	5		2	4				

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	2	6	3	7	5	4	1
7	1	3	4	5	9	2	8	6
5	6	4	2	8	1	7	9	3
3	5	6	9	7	2	8	1	4
9	4	1	8	6	5	3	7	2
2	8	7	1	4	3	9	6	5
4	7	9	3	2	6	1	5	8
6	3	5	7	1	8	4	2	9
1	2	8	5	9	4	6	3	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★

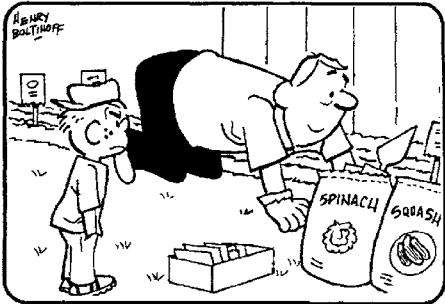
4/19

WONDERWORD

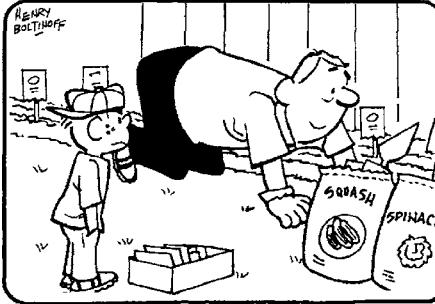
HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PLEA BARGAINING

L	R	N	C	E	F	A	S	T	Y	S	F	C	Y	S
M	A	J	O	R	I	T	Y	C	R	A	E	H	T	E
E	E	I	N	I	P	S	R	E	I	U				

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Wishing Well®

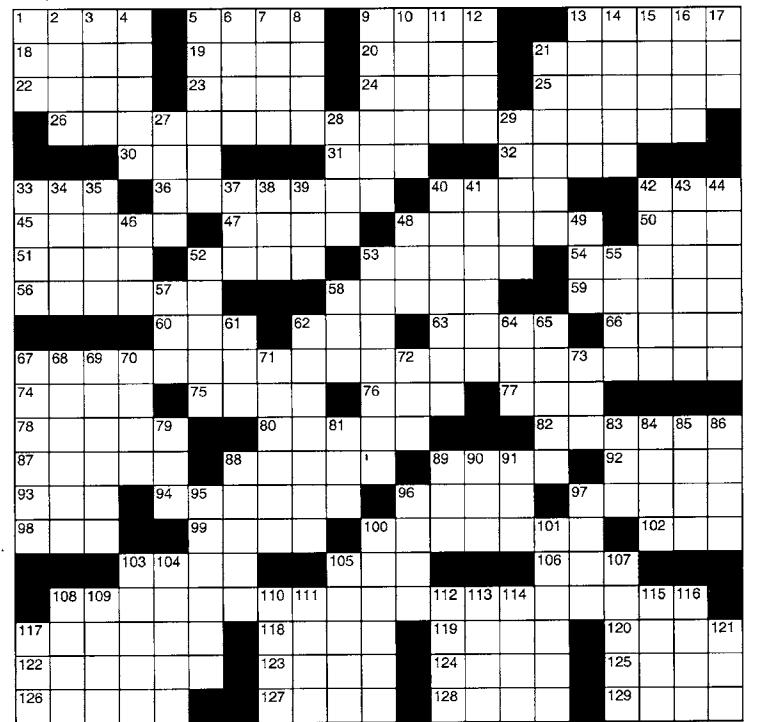
5	8	4	6	2	8	6	7	4	2	3	2	5
T	V	M	L	I	I	I	H	O	M	B	P	E
6	2	5	8	5	6	7	4	8	6	3	4	8
F	O	A	C	C	E	I	R	T	I	E	E	O
7	4	2	7	8	7	4	2	5	7	2	3	2
G	R	H	R	E	I	T	H	R	A	A	N	
7	8	4	6	4	7	2	4	2	4	5	6	3
V	Y	V	M	E	A	T	A	M	N	S	P	L
6	2	8	7	5	6	4	6	8	2	6	7	3
R	E	I	L	U	O	D	V	S	E	E	U	E
2	5	2	6	3	7	4	7	4	8	4	8	5
T	C	I	S	R	E	T	S	A	A	K	C	C
4	8	5	8	2	8	2	3	8	5	8	5	8
E	H	E	I	N	E	G	T	V	S	E	S	D

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword STICKY PROBLEM

ACROSS	52 Tribe	99 Submachine gun	7 — Spurmate	43 Patterned fabric	86 Wolfish expression
1 Caesar's suit?	53 On guard	54 Ignominy	100 Barber	44 Plain	88 English Romantic
5 Fiber source	56 With	56 With	102 Deface	46 Give it — (try)	89 Outlaw
9 — Breaky Heart? ('92 hit)	50 Across, fluffy feline	58 Munch (on)	103 Repeat	48 Even if, informally	90 Quindlen's "True Thing"
13 Haberdashery items	59 Summarize	60 Pound sound	105 Fraternity sticker	49 Ukr., formerly	91 — Peres, MO
18 Left open	62 Wine and dine	63 Saucy	106 Palm Sunday beast	52 Hills or Thomas	95 Definitely dislikes
20 Hint	66 Speech problem	117 King's thing	108 End of question	53 Shore soup	96 Like some collars
21 Southwestern native	67 Middle of question	118 Add color	113 Foundation	55 Hamilton detective	97 Manuscript enc.
22 Java joint	74 Jack of "Rio Lobo"	119 Circle dance	14 Put on the street	57 Hurricane fliers	100 Herbert or Hugo
23 About	75 Word with rug or code	120 Orthodox image	15 Songbird	58 Pigeon English?	101 North African feature
24 Deep unconsciousness	76 Couple	122 Evaluate	16 "So — is the thanks I get!"	61 In honor of	103 Violinist Zimbalist
25 Set's sibling	77 Pindaric poem	123 Voice type	17 Sea plea	62 Pulitzer winner	104 Intimate
26 Start of a question	78 Annoys	124 Fruit-tree spray	21 Record music, in a way	64 Sweater letter	105 1492 vessel
30 Tucked into the tortellini	80 Norwegian composer	125 Metric measure	27 Singer Redding	65 With	107 Director Lee
31 Gibbon or gorilla	82 Distressed one?	126 Subject	28 Trot or gallop	127 Across, toyshop buy	108 Marley's colleague
32 Orient	87 Turn inside out	127 See	29 Sordid	67 Brewer or Graves	109 Celtic
33 Chew the fat	88 Ulan —	128 Oenophile's mecca	33 Enthusiastic	68 "Jean" singer	110 Pierce
36 Occupy	89 Torso	129 Dutch export	34 Parsons or Paton	69 Aptitude	111 Mosaic bit
40 "Git, Garfield!"	92 Nurse's helper	130 See	35 Impresario Rudolf	70 Part of EMT	112 Comparative word
42 Commercials	93 DC figure	131 Tic — -toe	37 Producer Prince	71 Void	113 Alley's angel
45 Rap-sheet datum	94 Jonathan Winters' birthplace	132 Ventura County city	38 Menu phrase	72 Excavated	114 "The Parent" — (81 film)
47 Landed	96 Odense denizen	133 Fish hook	39 Coal container	73 Archaic assent	115 Biting
48 Runnymede's river	97 Ladd role	134 Amphitheater feature	40 Salon supply	74 "The King" and I setting	116 Vincent Lopez's theme song
50 See	98 Humorist Buchwald	135 Defeated	41 It may be magic	85 Author Ferber	117 Beaver, for one
55 Across	51 "Chain" — ("60 hit)	136 Prickly heat, e.g.	42 Small shrub	121 — de plume	



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- ANATOMY: What is the pad of flesh just in front of the ear called?
- MUSIC: What group produced the 1980s' pop hit "Karma Chameleon"?
- GEOGRAPHY: Dijon is a region within which European country?
- ENTERTAINERS: In the 19th century, which singer was called the "Swedish nightingale"?
- HISTORY: In what year did the United States celebrate its bicentennial?
- MOVIES: Which film director's credits included "Romeo and Juliet" and "La Traviata"?
- ADVERTISEMENTS: What was the name of the cartoon character who promoted Starkist tuna?
- MEDICINE: Vitamin K plays an important role in what function of the human body?
- LITERATURE: What literary character's family motto is "The world is not enough."
- TELEVISION: On the comedy series "Happy Days," what was Fonzie's full name?

10. Arthur Bond
9. James Bond
8. Blood clotting
7. Charlie
6. Franco Zeffirelli
5. 1976
4. Jerry Lund
3. Outline Club
2. Outline Club
1. The Trans

ANSWERS

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Saturday's Answers

P	E	L	I	D	R	A	S	A	G	O	L	E
A	C	H	E	M	A	G	A	T	E	O	D	O
T	H	E	M	E	R	J	N	O	N	I	R	I
H	O	Y	L	E	Z	E	R	O	C	F	R	E
W	E	S	T	F	I	N	R	J	A	T	A	E
O	V	O	D	O	T	G	I	N	A	L	A	A
K	I	N	G	W	E	T	H	R	O	J	I	M
S	T	A	T	A	S	T	E	R	O	S	T	E
F	R	I	A	D	S	M	E	T	E	D	E	X
T	R	I	A	D	S	M	E	T	E	E	E	S
R	I	A	D	S	M	E	T	E	E	E	E	S
I	R	I	A	D	S	M	E	T	E	E	E	S
I	R	I	A	D	S	M	E	T	E	E	E	S
I	R	I	A	D	S	M	E	T	E	E	E	S

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

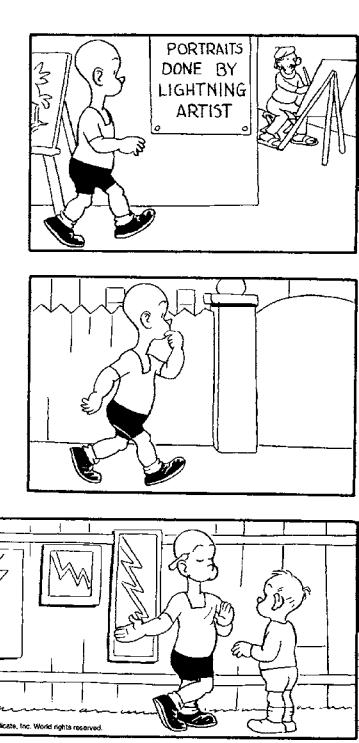
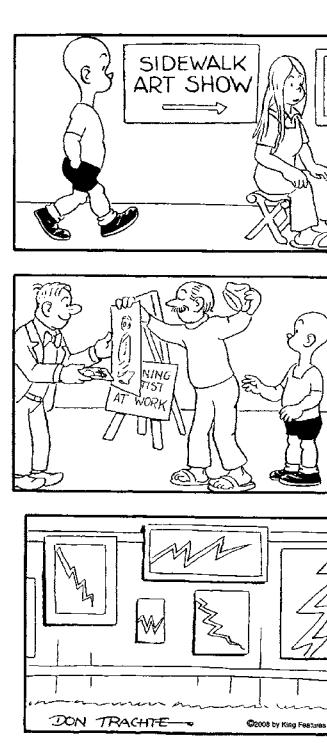
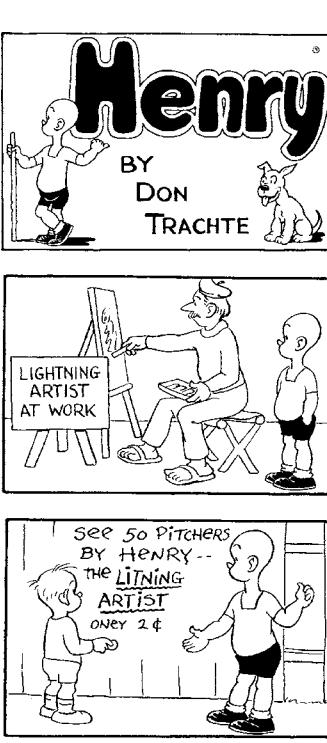
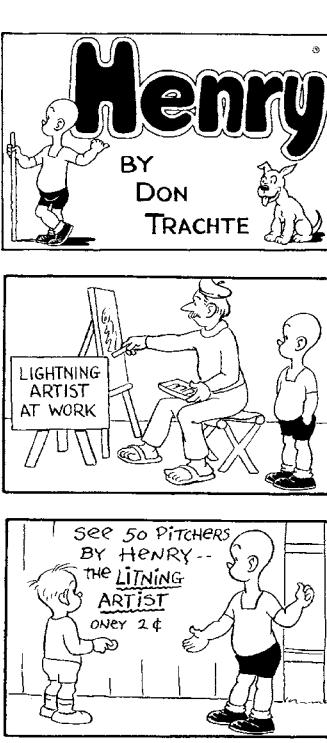
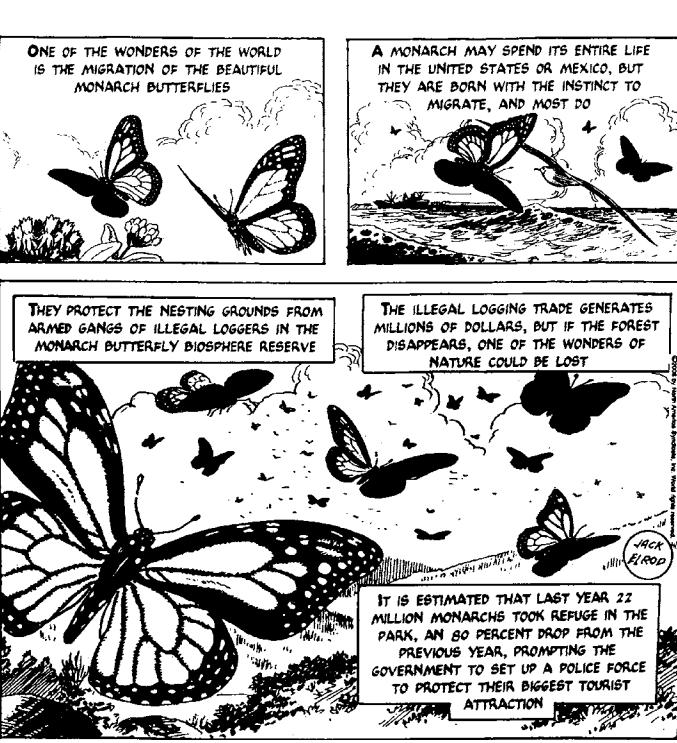
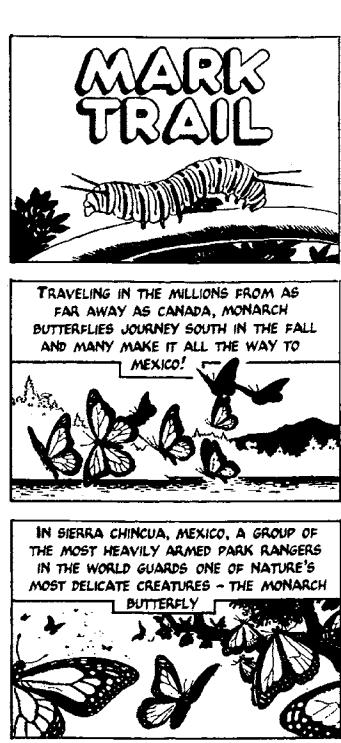
The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



www.Pickeringcomics.com



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1 CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR (SM 0060)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical & worker's compensation. Contact: Penta Pacific LLC. @288-2272.

1 ELECTRICIAN (SM 0061)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical & worker's compensation. Contact: Penta Pacific LLC. @288-2272.

1 CARPENTER (SM 0062)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical & worker's compensation. Contact: Micronesia Woodcraft Ent., Inc. @ 235-7631.

1 SALES MARKETING MANAGER (SM 0063)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical & worker's compensation. Contact: Pacific Sunshine Tour Inc. @234-7220.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (SM 0064)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical & worker's compensation. Contact: Sunflower Marketing Corp. @233-1041.

1 CARPENTER (SM 0065)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical & worker's compensation. Contact: Mingli Corporation @234-2150.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (SM 0066)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical & worker's compensation. Contact: Mingli Corporation @234-2150.

1 SALES SUPERVISOR (SM 0067)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical & worker's compensation. Contact: Mingli Corporation @234-2150.

1 GENERAL MAINTENANCE (SM 0068)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical & worker's compensation. Contact: Magdalena R. Orbino @234-5348.

1 HOUSEKEEPING (SM 0069)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: housing with \$60.00 deduction, medical & worker's compensation. Contact: Camacho Investment Corp. dba Summer Holiday Hotel @234-3182.

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (SM 0070)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: housing with \$60.00 deduction, medical & worker's compensation. Contact: Camacho Investment Corp. dba Summer Holiday Hotel @234-3182.

1 GENERAL MAINTENANCE (SM 0071)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical & worker's compensation.

WHATZIT Solution:
Hung, drawn and quartered

Contact: LNC Corporation dba LNC Store @233-2899.

1 MASON (SM 0072)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical & worker's compensation. Contact: JOS Corporation @235-5496.

1 WAITER/WAITRESS (SM 0073)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical & worker's compensation. Contact: Pacific Resort Services, Inc. dba Esy Kitchen @233-3550.

1 SALES ROUTE DRIVER (SM 0074)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical & worker's compensation. Contact: Victor Goza @234-5186.

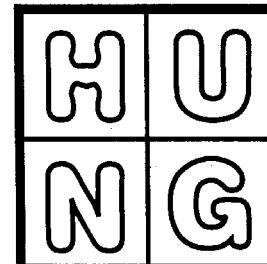
4 MASSEUS/MASSEUR (SM 0075)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical & worker's compensation. Contact: Thai Massage Inc. @233-2441.

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- 3-Liner
- 5-Liner
- 3-Liner with picture
- 5-Liner with picture

COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)

- | |
|------|
| \$25 |
| \$35 |
| \$45 |
| \$55 |

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION
Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Celtics, Pistons in the East, anybody's guess in the West

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

 Shaq and the Suns vs. the Spurs. Kobe Bryant head-to-head against Allen Iverson. The Dallas Mavericks' chance to go from favored flops to dangerous 'dogs.

And that's only the first round.

Coming off its tightest playoff race ever, the Western Conference is now set for a postseason that could be even better.

"It's going to be bananas, it's going to be crazy," Dallas guard Jason Terry said. "It's going to be great for NBA fans all across the world."

When it's finally over, whoever survives the wild West will probably find Boston or Detroit waiting for them.

The playoffs begin Saturday: Washington visits Cleveland for Round 3 of their postseason rivalry; Phoenix heads to San Antonio; the Hornets host Dallas in its first postseason game since returning to New Orleans; and Utah travels to Houston for another playoff rematch.

On Sunday, it's Toronto at Orlando; the Lakers taking on the Nuggets; Detroit entertaining Philadelphia; and Boston hosting Atlanta.

The Celtics or Pistons are heavy favorites to reach the NBA finals. Nothing is certain out West, where the top-seeded Lakers were only seven victories better than the No. 8 Nuggets, who finished 50-32.

The Spurs are the No. 3 seed, the same spot from where they started last year's title run. They went through the Suns, who provide a more sizable roadblock this time in the form of the



AP

Boston Celtics head coach Doc Rivers ponders a reporters' question before answering during a media availability after practice at the team's training facility in Waltham, Mass., Thursday afternoon, April 17, 2008.

7-foot-1, 325-pound Shaquille O'Neal, who helped Phoenix win both meetings since arriving from Miami.

"The Phoenix-San Antonio matchup is going to be an absolute bloodbath," Houston's Shane Battier said. "The Dallas-New Orleans series is going to be very, very competitive. Denver is athletic enough to match up with the Lakers; you never know what could happen in that series. And the 4-5 is always a good series. It's going to be a very good playoff race in the Western Conference this year."

Perhaps it ends with the Celtics against the Lakers, the NBA's greatest rivalry renewed on its biggest stage. Or maybe it's Boston-San Antonio, the old dynasty vs. the new.

Or, it could be Pistons-Hornets, or Pistons-Jazz, or Celtics-Suns. The finals might start in Boston or Detroit, but there's no telling who shows up from the West.

"I think it's open a little bit," Utah's Carlos Boozer said. "I think the championship still goes through the Spurs. I have a great deal of respect for them. There are definitely some talent-

ed teams out there, and I think everybody has a chance to get to the championship."

The Lakers clinched the top seed with a strong finish, possibly winning Bryant his first MVP award in the process. But they get a dangerous No. 8 seed in the Nuggets, with Iverson and Carmelo Anthony ranking just behind Bryant in the league's scoring race.

The eighth seed pulled the stunner last year when Golden State knocked off a 67-win Dallas team. Now the Mavericks will try to see the upset from the other side against the Southwest

Division champion Hornets, who are the No. 2 seed but have little postseason experience.

Dirk Nowitzki, Jason Kidd and the rest of the Mavericks got a huge confidence boost in the season finale with a 111-98 victory over the Hornets—a huge turnaround from the beating the Hornets laid on them in February in Dallas' first game after acquiring Kidd.

"We've been through almost everything in 30 games—Injuries, suspensions, different lineup changes. So I think we've seen it all," Kidd said. "Playing very talented teams, playing bad

teams. ... I think there's nothing we haven't seen as a team, from the first time we played New Orleans to now. So I think we're prepared and excited for this challenge."

So are the Celtics, led by the trio of Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen to an NBA-best 66-16 record. Now they chase the storied franchise's first title since 1986.

"We expect to win this thing," Garnett said. "Nothing less than that and that's the focus here, that's the mentality."

The Celtics and Pistons are expected to cruise through their opening-round series against sub-.500 teams. That probably leaves the Cleveland-Washington series as the best of the first round in the East.

The Cavaliers knocked out the Wizards in each of the last two years, though Washington's players talk as if they've forgotten. Some have said they wanted to play LeBron James and the defending conference champs, and now they've got their chance.

Washington had no hope of winning last year, with Gilbert Arenas and Caron Butler out with injuries. Now it's the Cavs who have been dealing with late-season injuries, but they still have James, the NBA's scoring leader with 30 points per game.

"He's tremendous. He can win a series all by himself, and hopefully he doesn't have to do that," Cavs coach Mike Brown said. "He doesn't have to do anything magical or anything like that. He just has to be himself and try to limit his mistakes, stay poised and continue to lead this team. That should get us where we need to go."

Bulls fire coach Jim Boylan; Bucks ax coach Larry Krystkowiak

DEERFIELD, Ill. (AP)—The Chicago Bulls fired interim coach Jim Boylan and the Milwaukee Bucks fired Larry Krystkowiak just after his first full season as an NBA head coach.

Boylan was let go after a morning meeting with general manager John Paxson, according to a person close to the situation who requested anonymity because the official announcement had not yet been made.

New Bucks general manager John Hammond confirmed his team's move to The Associated Press on Thursday. "Larry and I met this morning, and came to the decision that he would not return," Hammond said.

The move has been expected since Larry Harris was dismissed as general manager last month. Bucks owner and U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl hired Hammond to replace Harris, and Hammond had promised to quickly deal with the coaching situation and make it a top priority.

Boylan's firing was the first move of what figures to be a busy offseason for a team that finished 11th in the Eastern Conference just one season after reaching the second round of the playoffs.

He left the Bulls' practice facility without commenting.

The Bulls won 49 games and a playoff series last season, but took a big step backward in 2007-'08, finishing 33-49.

They were 24-32 under Boylan, who was promoted from assistant to his first NBA head coaching job after Chicago fired Scott Skiles in December.

"I was brought in here in the middle of the season," Boylan said a day before the Bulls ended his tenure. "It's kind of a tough situation. A lot of things happened."

Still, Boylan described his experience as "fun."

"I had a lot of fun doing it," he said. "It was full of all kinds of experiences—some good, some not so good. Sitting in the head coach's seat was comfort-

able and enjoyable. I loved the challenge."

A year ago, the Bulls were preparing for what turned out to be a first-round sweep of Miami and their first series victory since the Michael Jordan-Scottie Pippen era. They pushed Detroit to six games in the second round, but the optimism they brought to training camp seemed to disappear just as the season began.

Luol Deng and Ben Gordon turned down five-year contract extensions worth more than \$50 million, and Kobe Bryant trade rumors only added to the angst. The Bulls got off to another slow start, as in the previous few years—but couldn't break out of it this time.

"At times, this year, we let things bother us that I thought we were past," Boylan said. "I felt we had the formula for how to be successful and everybody understood it, but it seems like as you reflect back on the season, that wasn't the case."

The Bulls were 9-16 when

they fired Skiles. They missed the playoffs for the first time since the 2003-04 season, when Skiles took over early on for Bill Cartwright and Chicago finished 23-59. Skiles led the Bulls to the playoffs the next three seasons.

But neither he nor Boylan could turn things around this year.

The losses piled up, players lashed out. The hard-nosed defense and unselfish play of the previous three years never surfaced.

"A lot of things in this league aren't fair," guard Kirk Hinrich said. "(Boylan) kind of got dealt a tough situation. The record is what it is. We're done here. It's just a position we didn't want to be in."

Guard Ben Gordon said Boylan in an obviously difficult situation.

"But in this business, a lot of people have to deal with tough situations," Gordon said. "He's a guy who will continue to get better as a coach because he

puts effort into it."

Boylan dealt with several tough situations this season.

Rookie Joakim Noah was suspended in January after a verbal outburst at assistant coach Ron Adams in practice.

Initially a one-game suspension, his teammates voted to extend it to two. A short time later, Noah and Ben Wallace exchanged words following a blowout loss to Orlando.

Tyrus Thomas, apparently unhappy with his playing time, skipped practice and was handed a two-game suspension last month.

Chris Duhon missed a March 9 shootaround after being spotted the night before in Durham, N.C., at the North Carolina-Duke game; he was fined, benched for one game and inactive for another.

Bulls officials were not happy with his reaction - "I haven't been playing a lot anyway," he said. It was true. Duhon's minutes had been limited after Larry Hughes'

arrival with Drew Gooden in the three-team deal that sent Wallace to Cleveland.

Another episode was coming, this one involving Andres Nocioni.

Nocioni blew up at Boylan after being lifted in the second quarter of a game against Indiana late last month and got sent to the locker room. Nocioni apologized two days later, another sorry episode in a sorry season for the Bulls.

To top it off, players did not develop the way Paxson anticipated.

Deng, who looked like a budding star last season, missed 16 games in January and February with left Achilles tendinitis after sitting out three in November with lower back pain. He averaged 17.0 points and 6.3 rebounds.

Hinrich also struggled, averaging a career-low 11.5 points and 6.0 assists. Gordon, the team's leading scorer, saw his average drop from 21.4 points to 18.6.

Ravens' McNair retires after 13 seasons

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP)—Steve McNair intended to complete the final three years of his contract with the Baltimore Ravens. He worked hard during the offseason and arrived at minicamp ready to assume his role as the starting quarterback.

His body had other plans.

McNair announced his retirement Thursday, ending a 13-year career in which he was selected co-MVP, led the Tennessee Titans to the Super Bowl and orchestrated the most successful regular season in the Ravens history. He received a standing ovation from his teammates after revealing his decision, then contained his emotions during a hastily arranged news conference.

"Coming out and making this decision, it was hard," he said. "In your mind, you feel like you can play, that you can still compete. But when your mind and your body are not in accord, it's not going to work in the National Football League."

"My mind was there. Mentally, I could go out and play. But physically, I couldn't do it anymore. Not to the capacity that I need to help my teammates win a football game."

The 35-year-old McNair guided the Ravens to a franchise-best 13-3 record in 2006, his first season in Baltimore.



But he injured his groin during the season opener last season and never regained the form that enabled him to earn a berth in four Pro Bowls.

McNair developed back and shoulder injuries and played in only six games in 2007. He threw only two touchdown passes, was intercepted four times and lost seven fumbles before being placed on injured reserve in December, ending his most frustrating season in the NFL.

He underwent surgery on his non-throwing shoulder in December and spent much of the past three months getting ready for his 14th NFL season. But McNair had an inkling that all the running and weightlifting might be for naught.

"Over 13 years, I had a lot of injuries because I played the game physical, because I gave 110 percent every game," McNair said.

Eddie George, who played running back behind George in Houston and Tennessee, said, "You name the injury and Steve had it and he still showed up. Not only did he show up, but he showed up and played extremely well. For most of his days in Tennessee he played like that. In his MVP year he played most of the year hurt. It is a testament to his willingness to win and how he sacrificed his body for the team."

Tennessee's Jeff Fisher, his coach for most of his career, echoed George's comments, noting that McNair never wanted anyone to know how badly he was hurt.

"Steve was the face of this

found his way back to the field. For Steve to retire, it's a big deal. You don't usually see that caliber of player come through the NFL on a daily basis."

The highlight of McNair's career might be a five-game stretch at the end of the 2002 season in which the quarterback was banged up so much he could not practice. Yet, he started all five games and led the Titans to wins to finish 11-5 and reach the AFC championship game for the second time in four seasons.

"If you don't take those things into consideration when talking about Steve and the accomplishments he made, you're missing the point of the whole thing," Hopkins said. "He did it, and he's always done it as a competitor. He's one of those guys you want your young quarterbacks to be like him as far as the toughness."

The Ravens now have two quarterbacks: Kyle Boller and Troy Smith. First-year coach John Harbaugh said there would be an open competition for the starting job, and general manager Ozzie Newsome insisted the loss of McNair would have "no impact" on the team's direction in the NFL draft later this month.

McNair began his career in 1995 with the Houston Oilers, who eventually became the Tennessee Titans. He led the team to four playoff appearances, including the Super Bowl after the 1999 season. He was chosen co-MVP of the league in 2003, sharing the award with Peyton Manning, after throwing for 3,215 yards and 24 touchdowns with only seven interceptions.

McNair fought injuries during the latter part of his career with Tennessee and was dealt to the Ravens in June 2006 for a fourth-round draft pick. He had every intention of completing the five-year contract he signed with Baltimore, but those old wounds finally caught up to him.

"Over 13 years, I had a lot of injuries because I played the game physical, because I gave 110 percent every game," McNair said.

The news stunned his teammates, who expected McNair to return—if only to prove last season was fluke.

"I thought I was going to get at least one more year, because I know Steve has a big chip on his shoulder," said receiver Derrick Mason, who also played with McNair on the Titans.

Brad Hopkins, who protected McNair's blind side at left tackle with the Titans, said, "Sure, he had a multitude of injuries and what not. Some way, he always



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Steve McNair, right, pauses during a news conference announcing his retirement from football, as Ravens coach John Harbaugh looks on, Thursday April 17, 2008 in Owings Mills, Md. AP

franchise when we arrived here. And I think in a lot of ways will always be one of the faces of this franchise," Fisher said.

In his first season with Baltimore, McNair played in all 16 games and finished the season with an invitation to play in his fourth Pro Bowl. He threw for 3,050 yards and 16 touchdowns, but was intercepted twice in the Ravens' 15-6 play-

off loss to Indianapolis.

Last year, however, was a disaster. After McNair got off to a horrid start, then-coach Brian Billick held the quarterback out for two consecutive weeks before an Oct. 28 bye, hoping the rest would enable the veteran to heal. But McNair was ineffective upon his return: He lost two fumbles and threw an interception in a 38-7 defeat at

Pittsburgh, then threw for only 128 yards before being replaced in the fourth quarter of a 21-7 loss to Cincinnati.

It turned out to be the last game of his career.

"It's been a great ride," he said. "It's a sad, emotional day for me. I'm trying to do the best I can to hold it in. But at the same time, I'm opening up a lot more doors for the future. I can

become now the father I need to be to my kids."

Linebacker Ray Lewis, who had many memorable duels with McNair before the two became teammates, said, "There is no greater warrior or player with a bigger heart than Steve McNair. He came into this game and gave it everything he had. He now can walk away with his head held high."

Love, Leonard and Glover share lead at Hilton Head

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. (AP)—Davis Love III is back on top at Harbour Town.

The five-time tournament champion shot a 5-under 66 on Thursday for a share of the first-round lead in the Verizon Heritage with Justin Leonard and Lucas Glover.

The 44-year-old Love has struggled to bounce back from tearing ligaments in his left ankle last September. On Thursday, he shot his best round since August and gave him confidence things might keep improving at one of his favorite locales.

"It's getting close," Love said. There have been many oddities for Love the past few months. He failed to qualify for the Masters, missing his first major championship since the 1990 U.S. Open.

"That was weird," Love said. He spent the week with family, hunting turkeys and only sparingly tuned in to Masters coverage to follow his buddy Fred Couples and Brandt

Snedeker, who spend time in Love's residence of Sea Island.

Love also worked to tune up his game to compete at a place where no one's won as much as he has.

"You keep sticking the tokens in the machine, eventually you'll get it right," Love said.

Not that it'll be easy.

Leonard, the 2002 Harbour Town winner, is coming off a top-20 finish at the Masters. Glover had his best finish of the year in his last event, a tie for 14th at the Shell Houston Open.

A large group a stroke behind the leaders included two-time Heritage winner Stewart Cink and Camilo Villegas. Jim Furyk, ranked No. 9 in the world, was another shot back at 68.

Snedeker was also in the mix after a 70. He tied for third at the Masters with Cink but probably gained as much attention for allowing the emotions and tears to flow when

his chance at a green jacket fell apart last Sunday.

Ernie Els figured as a strong favorite here given his status (world's third-ranked player) and Harbour Town history (seven top-10 finishes in nine starts). However, the "Big Easy" faltered with a 1-over 72 in a round that included only one birdie.

Love started quickly with four birdies in his first seven holes. He tied Leonard for the top spot with a birdie on the par-5 15th hole after landing his approach within 4 feet of the flag.

Leonard set the standard for much of the round, the former champion rolling in a birdie putt on the difficult closing lighthouse hole, No. 18. He finished with his lowest round in more than two months and cracked 70 for just the third time in his past 13 rounds.

This tournament is like a breath of fresh air compared with a pressure-packed week



of Masters play, Leonard said. "You come here" to Harbour Town Golf Links, Leonard continued, "and you just kind of get embraced by the southern hospitality."

Glover pushed to the top with five birdies over an eight-hole stretch. His back-to-back birdies on the 15th and 16th holes tied Leonard and Love.

Love admits he may never be 100 percent physically again as time goes on. He's also struggling to maintain his focus instead of "checking out" for several holes a round.

"I felt like I was playing 14 holes," Love said. "I'm leaving, mentally just leaving, losing touch there for a few holes every once in a while."

The familiarity of Harbour Town helped Love stay on track. Success, though, was coming no matter the location, Love says.

"I have worked extremely hard this year to get the mind going," he said. "I'm close and it's got to pay off eventually."

Carmona leads Indians against Tigers


CLEVELAND

(AP)—Fausto Carmona allowed a run in 6 2-3 innings, Ryan Garko and Travis Hafner hit two-run homers and the Cleveland Indians beat the Detroit Tigers 11-1 on Thursday.

Tigers right-hander Justin Verlander remained winless in four starts, falling to 0-3. He allowed five runs and seven hits in five innings, with four walks and one strikeout. The loss snapped the Tigers' season-high three-game winning streak.

Carmona (2-1), who walked eight in 3 1-3 innings in his last start against Oakland, gave up seven hits, struck out two and walked one.

Red Sox 7, Yankees 5

At New York, Manny Ramirez hit two more homers off an ineffective Mike Mussina, leading Josh Beckett and the Red Sox past the perturbed Yankees in a game that nearly became heated.

With Ramirez enjoying his latest outburst against his favorite foe, Yankees reliever Kyle Farnsworth threw a 97 mph (156 kph) fastball behind the slugger's neck on the first pitch of the seventh inning, drawing cheers from the sellout crowd of 55,088. Plate umpire Larry Vanover immediately warned both dugouts, and Ramirez eventually grounded out to second.

Mariners 8, Athletics 1

At Oakland, California, Carlos Silva pitched Seattle's second straight gem, leading the Mariners to their sixth straight win in the series against Oakland.

Jose Vidro hit a two-run single in Seattle's five-run third against Lenny DiNardo (1-1), Yuniesky Betancourt singled in a run that inning and Kenji Johjima drew a bases-loaded walk as the Mariners batted around. They won their third straight overall and sent the A's to their first three-game losing streak of the season.

Orioles 6, White Sox 5, 10 innings

At Baltimore, Adam Jones singled in the game-winning run in the 10th inning, helping Baltimore rally from a 5-2 deficit in the eighth to split the two-game series with Chicago.

Nick Markakis homered for the Orioles, whose only lead in the series came when Millar crossed the plate. George Sherrill (1-0) pitched the 10th



AP
Cleveland Indians' Fausto Carmona pitches against the Detroit Tigers in the first inning of a baseball game Thursday, April 17, 2008, in Cleveland.

for the win.

Carlos Quentin hit two homers and Joe Crede also connected for Chicago, now 9-1 when leading after eight innings. Half the runs yielded by the White Sox were unearned.

Rangers 4, Blue Jays 1

At Toronto, Vicente Padilla pitched seven strong innings, Ian Kinsler had three hits and Texas handed Toronto its fifth straight home defeat.

Rangers outfielder David Murphy went 3-for-4 with three doubles. He scored twice and drove in a run and Texas won its second straight following a five-game losing streak.

Padilla (2-1) allowed one run and seven hits with three walks and two strikeouts.

Angels 5, Royals 3

At Anaheim, California, Garret Anderson doubled in three runs, Erick Aybar had an RBI double and scored another run on a grounder with the infield in, and Los Angeles beat Kansas City.

Jon Garland (2-2) allowed two runs and seven hits over 6 1-3 innings with three walks and a strikeout. The right-hander, who has beaten Kansas City

more often than any other club, is 17-6 against the Royals and 11-1 at home.

Rays 7, Twins 3

At Minneapolis, Jason Hammel had his second straight strong outing, Nathan Haynes' single keyed a four-run rally and Tampa Bay beat Minnesota to split the two-game series.

In six innings, Hammel (1-1) allowed six hits and three runs while striking out five to help the Rays end a three-game losing streak.

Up 3-2, Tampa Bay batted around and scored four times in the fifth inning to chase Minnesota starter Boof Bonser, who hasn't won in 12 home starts since June 10, 2007.

Phillies 10, Astros 2

At Philadelphia, Brett Myers (2-1) allowed one run and five hits in seven innings, and Chris Coste tied a career high with four hits.

Ryan Howard and Pat Burrell had consecutive homers for the Phillies, who tied a season-high with 16 hits. Chase Utley added a two-run drive.

Brewers 5, Cards 3

At St. Louis, Prince Fielder hit his first home run of the season, a two-run drive off Brad Thompson (1-1) in the 10th inning.

Fielder, who led the NL with 50 homers last year, needed 54 at-bats to connect for the first time this year.

Reds 9, Cubs 2

At Chicago, Ken Griffey Jr. hit his 596th homer, and Joey Votto doubled with the bases loaded, homered and drove in five runs to end the Reds' five-game losing streak.

With the wind blowing in at Wrigley for the first time in the three-game series, Votto delivered the key hits and the Reds' Dusty Baker beat the team he managed from 2003-06.

Braves 8, Marlins 0

At Miami, John Smoltz pitched five shutout innings and struck out 10, increasing his career total to 2,996, and Chipper Jones went 4-for-4 with two homers.

Mets 3, Nationals 2

At New York, Damion Easley scored on Joel Hanrahan's second wild pitch in the 14th inning and the Mets won on the 44th anniversary of the first game at Shea Stadium.

7-5, 6-3, 6-7 (3-7), 4-6.

At on point in the fourth set, Jacob was serving for the match only to have the Al Nabhani brothers break it and force the game into a tiebreak, which they won.

With victory slipping out their grasp, Baudinet and Jacob were a shell of themselves in the fifth, which allowed the Al Nabhani brothers to take over and win the tie and render the reverse singles the

next day, April 13, academic.

Leong and Langton nonetheless gave their all and defeated Mohammad Al Nabhani and Sulaiman Al Rawahi, respectively, in the third day's reverse singles to allow the Islanders to bow out of Group II with a more forgiving 2-3 loss.

Leong beat Mohammad Al Nabhani, 6-7 (3-6), 6-3, 6-3, while Langton ran made roughshod over Oman's No. 3 player Al Rawahi, 6-1, 6-4.

Adults must accompany riders 16-and-under in the entire route.

All riders must start and complete the ride with the group they selected at the start of the ride. Each group must have at least one leader. Pack leaders will also be assigned before the start of the ride.

Some riders can also use the Sunday Fun Ride as training and preparation for the Tinian Triathlon on June 14.

The NMITF also scheduled a Sun-

day Fun Ride on Tinian on May 3 for a bicycle tour of the island and a swim at Taga Beach. Tinian will be celebrating the San Jose Fiesta from May 2 to 4.

NMITF secretary Lewie Tenorio said the scheduled Tinian Fun Ride offers those who will join the Tinian Triathlon the opportunity to familiarize themselves of the bike and swim courses.

For more information, email the NMITF at NMITF@yahoo.com.

PACIFIC

From Page 28

of Vanuatu who took on the tireless Al Nabhani brothers in the doubles match the following day, April 12.

The Pacific Oceania duo battled through five hard-fought sets but ultimately lost to the Omani tandem in heart-breaking fashion, 6-7 (3-7),

NMITF

From Page 28

when driving a car and as much as possible form a single line especially when on single lane traffic and always follow the road rules.

Helmets are required for all riders and bring your own hydration such as water, sports drinks, or power gels.

day Fun Ride on Tinian on May 3 for a bicycle tour of the island and a swim at Taga Beach. Tinian will be celebrating the San Jose Fiesta from May 2 to 4.

NMITF secretary Lewie Tenorio said the scheduled Tinian Fun Ride offers those who will join the Tinian Triathlon the opportunity to familiarize themselves of the bike and swim courses.

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TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	10	7	.588	—
Baltimore	9	7	.563	1/2
New York	9	8	.529	1
Toronto	8	8	.500	1 1/2
Tampa Bay	7	9	.438	2 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	9	6	.600	—
Kansas City	9	7	.563	1/2
Minnesota	7	9	.438	2 1/2
Cleveland	6	10	.375	3 1/2
Detroit	5	11	.313	4 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	10	7	.588	—
Oakland	9	8	.529	1
Seattle	9	8	.529	1
Texas	7	9	.438	2 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Florida	9	6	.600	—
New York	8	6	.571	1/2
Philadelphia	8	8	.500	1 1/2
Atlanta	6	9	.400	3
Washington	4	12	.250	5 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	11	5	.688	—
Milwaukee	9	6	.600	1 1/2
Chicago	9	6	.600	1 1/2
Pittsburgh	7	8	.467	3 1/2
Cincinnati	7	9	.438	4
Houston	6	10	.375	5

West Division

Arizona	11	4	.733	—
San Diego	8	7	.533	3
Los Angeles	7	8	.467	4
Colorado	6	8	.429	4 1/2
San Francisco	6	10	.375	5 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Boston 7, N.Y. Yankees 5

Cleveland 11, Detroit 1

Baltimore 6, Chicago White Sox 5, 10 innings

Texas 4, Toronto 1

Tampa Bay 7, Minnesota 3

Seattle 8, Oakland 1

L

2ND ANNUAL HANMI CUP CHAMPIONSHIP



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Pacific Islands Club's Marino Pungilug, left, and Derrick Tudela, left, try to trap Ryan Manglona of Fiesta-Grand Hotel.



Fiesta-Grand Hotel's Ferdie Dela Torre prepares to shoot a free throw in their finals game against Pacific Islands Club in the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Dela Torre is a *Saipan Tribune* reporter.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Derrick Tudela of PIC tries to score against the defense of Fiesta-Grand Hotel's Ryan Manglona, left, and William Opone, top, while Nick Swain looks on.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
From left, PIC general manager Kieran Daly and Fiesta-Grand Hotel general manager B.K. Park pose with HANMI Cup coordinator Lito Espino after each received plaques of appreciation.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
HANMI Cup coordinator Lito Espino, right, poses with Hafadai Beach Hotel director Pete Iguel, center, and comptroller Kazunori Yabuki.



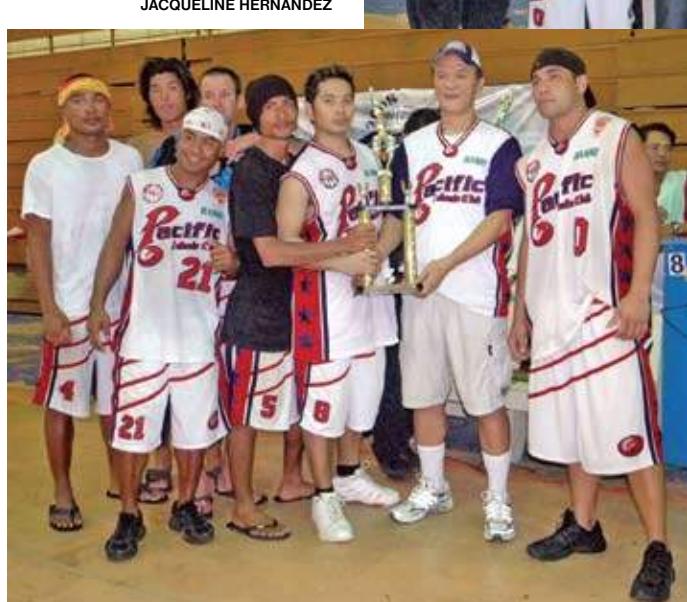
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Fiesta-Grand Hotel fans celebrate a basket made by their team.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
The PIC mascot works out the PIC crowd during the halftime break.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
HANMI Cup coordinator Lito Espino, right, poses with Saipan Grand Hotel general manager Ed Cho.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Team PIC poses with coach Robert Lloren after receiving their runner-up trophy.

HANMI Cup coordinator Lito Espino, right, poses with Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Michael von Siebenthal, center, and Hyatt Regency coach Noel Calub.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
HANMI Cup coordinator Lito Espino, left, poses with Aqua Resort Club general manager Hiro Sigue, center, and Aqua Resort Club head coach Emiterio Brigino.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Shaq and the Suns vs. the Spurs. Kobe Bryant head-to-head against Allen Iverson. The Dallas Mavericks' chance to go from favored flops to dangerous 'dogs. **24**

Fausto Carmona allowed a run in 6 2-3 innings, Ryan Garko and Travis Hafner hit two-run homers and the Cleveland Indians beat the Detroit Tigers 11-1 on Thursday. **26**



Kamikaze plans to go pro in the mainland

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Many time CNMI national golfer Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho last year relocated to the U.S. mainland to pursue his dream of becoming a professional golfer.

Along the way, the multi-titled par-buster won the 2007 Hafa Adai Golf Classic Tournament and was able to spend quality time with brothers Tony and Vidal.

Camacho left the CNMI for the U.S. last June 20, 2007, to make a career of what used to be just a weekend hobby playing golf.

Barely 10 days after landing in the States, Camacho joined the 2007 Hafa Adai Golf Classic Tournament and won the overall championship held in July 2 and 3, 2007, at the Monarch Bay and SummitPointe golf courses in San Mateo, California.

"I was talked into joining the Hafa Adai Golf Classic by my brother Tony "Skag" and my younger brother Vidal who I haven't seen for almost 12 years. I won that tournament by the way, which my brothers want me to defend in July of this year before I join the nationwide tour," he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Nowadays, Camacho is pretty much occupied at improving his golf game, which according to him, has progressed by leaps and bounds to the point that he's just a step away



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, second from left, poses with other participants of the 2007 Hafa Adai Golf Classic Tournament held in July 2 and 3, 2007, at the Monarch Bay and SummitPointe golf courses in San Mateo, California.

from turning professional.

"I've been very busy with work and fine-tuning my swing because there's so many things going on it's hard to keep up. It's good that spring is here

and there's more daylight now than winter which gives me plenty of time after work to practice on my game.

"I've been working very hard to fine tune my game and taking it to the next

level because my plan is to turn professional after I defend my title in San Diego in July 2 and 3. I'm basically just a signature away from becoming a pro because I could do it any time, I just

want to spend time with my brothers before I do it because it will be a full-time commitment," said Camacho.

Asked about what a year away from home has meant for him, the 2005 Johnny Walker Classic Pro-Am qualifier said it was a chance to meet up with relatives and friends he hasn't seen for a while.

"I really enjoyed myself last year because I got to spend almost two weeks with my brothers and I met my cousin who I haven't seen for more than 20 years so I really had a blast."

It's not to say that he doesn't miss Saipan though, as Camacho verily admitted that he thinks everything and anything about the island life in his spare time.

"I miss everything about home—the weather, friends, the food, golfing with the boys, the beach, fishing, especially the peace and quite of the island. Now I truly believe that there's no place like home."

Camacho also discussed about his future plans, and one of them includes coming back to the Commonwealth and help aspiring athletes reach their full potential and achieve their dreams.

"I don't really know if I'm actually ever coming back to Saipan. To visit, yes, but to stay, maybe. But I'll come back someday and share my experiences with the kids so they too can live the dreams that we all have, to be who we are. When I left Saipan I felt like I left a big hole, a gap that someday I'll have to come back and fix it. My goal right now is to represent the Northern Marianas the best way I can its' not going to be easy but whoever said we can't try."

Pacific Oceania now ranked No. 68

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

DAVIS CUP by BNP PARIBAS
Pacific Oceania went down five rungs to No. 68 in the latest Davis Cup standings following its 2-3 loss in the hands of Oman last weekend at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Muscat.

After starting the year at No. 63, the Islanders saw its ranking slip to the low 60s after the loss to the Middle East country that relegated them to Group III for the 2009 Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone competition.

Curiously though, Oman is a rung lower than the Islanders in the Davis Cup ranking, which was released last April 14, at No. 69. Pacific Oceania currently sits with 95 points, 10 points higher than the 85 posted by Oman, which last year was elevated from Group III.

In the Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group II relegation tie held last weekend, Oman seized control of its matchup against the Islanders when the talented Al Nabhani brothers—Khalid and Mohammad—defeated Michael



Jacobe



Leong

Leong of Solomon Islands and Juan Sebastian Langton of Samoa in the opening singles last April 11.

The speedy Leong met his match against Khalid Al Nabhani as the ace of the Pacific Oceania team was overpowered in straight sets, 1-6, 6-7 (3-6), 4-6.

Langton, meanwhile, fared much bet-

ter against Mohammed Al Nabhani, but lost in a tight one, 5-7, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4, 2-6.

With 0-2 deficit starring them in the face, Pacific Oceania team captain Cyrille Mainguy entrusted the Islanders' last hopes to the pair of Brett Baudinet of Cook Islands and Cyril Jacobe

See PACIFIC on Page 26

NMITF's Sunday fun ride returns

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

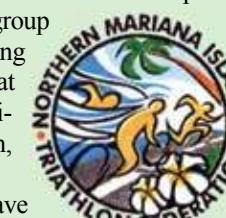
The Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation-organized Sunday Fun Ride returns on Sunday with the group to assemble again at Micro Beach pavilion at 6am.

Cyclists of all ages are invited where they can pick a group to ride with according to their level starting at 6:30am. The group is divided into fast, medium, and leisure riders.

Each group will leave Micro Beach pavilion at 6:30am and will head north to Banzai Cliff Park in Marpi.

Male and female cyclists of all ages and levels can use their mountain or road bikes and join them in the ride.

The event is divided into three groups varying in speeds. Group 1 will travel at speeds of 10 miles per hour from Micro Beach to Banzai Cliff where they will rest and wait for the other group before going back to Micro Beach.



Group 2 will travel at 15mph from Micro Beach to Bird Island and will proceed to the Grotto and Banzai Cliff, wait for the other groups and head back to Micro Beach.

The last Group will have speeds of 20mph from Micro Beach to Suicide Cliff, go down to Bird Island and proceed to Banzai Cliff where they will rest and wait for the other group before returning to Micro Beach.

The Sunday Fun Ride is one of NMITF's programs for 2008 and it is held every Sunday. This is also NMITF's way of promoting the sport of cycling and basic safety tips for riders and motorists in the CNMI.

The NMITF is organizing the race since they want to increase public motorist awareness on sharing the road with cyclists.

Cyclists are also advised to observe the basic rules while riding: Safety first where at all times ride on the side of the road as you would

See NMITF on Page 26